

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, July 17, 2014

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IN THE PINK

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PAGE 6

Surfacing work will cause road disruption

DRIVERS will face diversions and disruption as road works and closures start on a busy high street in the Black Country.

Resurfacing work on Quarry bank High Street will begin at the end of this month and will last for two weeks.

Work on the A4100 will take place between the roundabout at Park Road and the Dudley borough boundary at Cradley Forge and will include the installation of a new 20mph zone in the vicinity of Quarry Bank Primary School.

Busiest

It will begin on July 28 and motorists travelling towards Merry Hill and Brierley Hill will face disruption as the road will be closed on weekdays between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

The road will be kept open to traffic coming from Merry Hill and Brierley Hill heading towards Cradley.

A full overnight closure is also planned for August 1 when a section of the road, from the roundabout at Park Road to Queen Street, will be laid overnight.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "It is one of the busiest roads in the borough but it needs resurfacing and the disruption will be worth it in the end."

Temporary crime role

A TEMPORARY police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands has been appointed in the wake of the death of Bob Jones, amid criticism of a by-election being tabled in just over a month.

Labour's Yvonne Mosquito, deputy PCC, was formally appointed to take the reins until a by-election on August 21 but she will not take the role permanently as Labour's candidate for the role is former Solihull councillor and Plymouth MP David Jamieson.

CHANCELLOR'S HOSPITAL VOW

Brook goes on camera for flood warning

A CAMERA system has been installed at a flooding hotspot to warn residents of rising water levels.

The Environment Agency has positioned CCTV cameras and sensors in the Illey Brook in Halesowen.

The £2,875 system will monitor water levels and alert residents at risk through an automated phone call.

People can also follow the camera observations via social media app Twitter.

The investment follows resident's fears over flooding. In 2008, water from the brook swamped homes in Woodman Road, Halesowen Way and Honeybourne Road.

Environment Agency project manager Jamie Sarginson said: "Both the Environment Agency and Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council have been working closely with the Illey Brook Flood Committee to investigate ways to make the community more flood resilient – and this new camera goes a long way to achieving that goal."

Images will also be on a website run by Vision Link, which created the system.

Residents were told fences, such as walls and embankments, would cost £2.4 million, which the Environment Agency said was not financially viable.

Fire call outs despite strike

THERE were two call outs for firefighters in Dudley during their nationwide strike on Monday.

Members of the Fire Brigades Union in the region staged two walk outs during which time there were a total of 13 incidents across the West Midlands Fire Service area.

Non-striking staff were called to a road accident in Cinder Road, Lower Gornal, just after 6am and a car fire in Garratt Street, Brierley Hill, just before 7am.

Daisy-Mae Little is a huge internet hit



Daisy-Mae Little and her doting dad Wayne, a Brierley Hill firefighter, with the snap that became an internet sensation

IT'S a heart warming picture of a daddy cuddling up to his baby daughter.

This snapshot of Daisy-Mae Little and doting father Wayne has become an internet sensation.

More than 2,500 people have liked the picture, while an incredible 15,000 now follow Daisy-Mae's exploits on her Facebook page.

Wayne updates the page regularly with pictures and messages.

His daughter weighed just 1lb 13 oz when she was born and had to receive specialist neo-natal care.

More than half a year later and she is going from strength to strength.

Her 42-year-old firefighter father from Brierley Hill, said he initially kept the Facebook diary as a way of updating family and friends.

He said: "Daisy-Mae finally made it to the top of her mountain and I'm so proud of her."

Coping

"My way of coping was to write a diary to her. A diary from your daddy to the girl who couldn't wait. But then I realised how concerned our family and friends were, so I began writing one on Facebook too, so everyone could see how she was doing."

His blog, coupled with a diary, is being turned into a book, due for release on September 13 to coincide with Daisy-Mae's christening.

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Jail for burglar with appalling record

A PROLIFIC burglar who stole jewellery and cash from a pensioner has been jailed for three-and-a-half years.

Paul Mainwood, aged 35, of Harold Road, Rowley Regis, admitted his part in a distraction burglary at a house in Sandon near Stafford. The haul included an 83-year-old's engagement ring, a gold locket, sovereign chain, and around £40 cash.

Miss Heather Chamberlin told Stafford Crown Court that the elderly woman had been gardening when the defendant asked her about a dog.

"She then saw that the front door was open, went upstairs and found that the drawers of a bedside cabinet were on the floor and contents emptied on the floor. Missing was some very sentimental jewellery."

The victim noticed a mark on the wall and after swabbing it police found traces of Mainwood's DNA.

At first Mainwood denied being involved but later pleaded guilty claiming to have been part of a distraction and giving gloves to an accomplice who then entered the woman's house. The offence took place just months after the defendant had been released from prison.

He had 13 convictions for house burglaries.

Sentencing Mainwood, Recorder Ed Pepperell took into account five other offences and said: "I am told you are remorseful and talked about rehabilitation. I am afraid I take that with a huge pinch of salt. I see no evidence in your appalling record to suggest any remorsefulness is genuine."

Free travel passes for jobseekers in £3m deal

JOBSSEEKERS will get free travel passes as part of a £3 million transport deal for the Black Country.

It also hoped the funding will create 6,000 new cyclists, add an extra 5.5 million trips on public transport each year and cut car journeys by 22.9 million kilometres a year.

The £3,057,000 government funding will be used by transport authority Centro and Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils.

Schemes will include free travel passes and cycling support for jobseekers, travel advice for school leavers starting education, training or new jobs, travel support for students and staff at secondary schools, colleges and universities, as well as bespoke travel support for households and businesses.

Vulnerable

There will also be free adult cycle training and bus and HGV driver training focussed on vulnerable road users including cyclists. The initiatives start next year.

The project involves the creation of new cycle routes, upgrades to traffic junctions and free travel advice for residents.

"We thought it would be a special treat for local children and families if we kept the beach throughout the summer, all they have to do is bring their bucket and spade for a lovely fun day out."

Families can also enjoy refreshments at the Oak Tea Room which is open most Sundays from 2pm to 4.30pm.

There will be free band concerts throughout the summer, including the Black Country Ukelele Players this Sunday and Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass band performing on August 3.

Both events are free and take place from 2.30pm.

The schemes are the result of close collaboration between Centro, the four Black Country councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which includes local business people and politicians. It is tasked with drawing up initiatives that can bring economic growth and create jobs.

Bishop backs credit union



The bishop with finance boss Councillor Stuart Turner and credit unit assistant Natalie Poole

THE Bishop of Dudley has opened a Credit Union account as part of the Church's commitment to affordable finance.

The Rev Graham Usher visited the Castle & Crystal Credit Union branch in New Street on July 7. The Bishop's visit follows a commitment by the Church of England to proactively support credit unions as an alternative affordable financial service.

Mr Usher, who was recently made bishop, said: "Credit Unions can provide a real alternative for people in need of affordable fi-

nancial services, giving them somewhere to turn and helping them to make ends meet."

"As a diocese, we have already invested some of our Social Responsibility Fund money into the Castle & Crystal Union and I'm delighted to open a personal account. I hope that this will continue to raise the profile of credit unions and encourage more people to get involved."

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial co-operatives. See www.castleandcrystal.co.uk or call 01384 815771.

People fled the scene of car crashes

FOUR people fled two cars after two crashes in the Black Country.

Staffordshire Police brought in the force helicopter to try and find three people who absconded from one of the cars in an accident near Sedgley.

Two cars crashed in Wodehouse Lane, Gospel End, shortly after midnight, in the early hours of Monday, leaving both with significant damage.

A man inside one of the cars had to be cut free by crews from Dudley and Bilston fire stations. He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Three people in the second car left the scene before emergency services arrived.

Fire crews made the vehicles safe before helping with the clear up.

Meanwhile, a driver abandoned a car after it overturned and landed on a grass verge in another crash.

The Ford hatchback ended up on its roof in Hanover Road, Rowley Regis at about 8.30pm on Sunday.

When fire crews arrived the driver was not there. Onlookers said they had fled the scene.

The road was blocked for about half an hour.

Three in court on theft charges

THREE men have appeared in court charged with stealing lead from the roof of a care home in Halesowen.

Mark Bilsby, aged 49, of Nagersfield Road, Brierley Hill, Jamie Bourne, 34, of Pedmore Road, Lye, and David Fletcher, 21, of Junction Road, Lye, pleaded not guilty to theft at Dudley Magistrates Court.

Police were called to Halesowen Project for the Elderly on Queensway on May 27. The lead involved had been valued at £500.

The three men will appear before the court again on October 6.

Golf for charity

A LEGAL firm based in Stourbridge raised £700 for the Midlands Air Ambulance. Wall James Chappell's annual charity golf day took place at Blackwell Golf Club in Brinsford. James Rousell, a partner, thanked those who supported the event.

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More than 100 theft reports on railways

MORE than 110 thefts of passenger property were reported at railways in the Black Country and parts of Staffordshire over the past 18 months, new figures show.

A total of 112 thefts were reported to British Transport Police in 18 months.

Around 82 of these took place in 2013, with a further 32 in the first six months of this year.

They were reported on trains in what is known as the Wolverhampton sector, which has stations including Bloxwich, Tipton, Wolverhampton, Coseley, Halesowen and Stafford.

British Transport Police are currently running Operation Magnum in a bid to crackdown on the problem and to encourage people to keep their valuables safe.

It was launched last year following a 16 per cent rise in thefts at stations and on trains across Britain.

But police say the operation is already having an impact with theft figures on track to be lower this year.

Brian Price, spokesman for British Transport Police, said: "We take all incidents seriously. Thieves operating on the rail network should know that they will be caught and dealt with."

Police plea after death

A MOTORCYCLIST has died days after being seriously injured in a crash.

Ashley Sylvester was involved in a collision with a silver BMW on New Street at the junction with Manor Road in Wordsley on July 5.

The 20-year-old from Wordsley was taken to hospital but died four days later.

Sergeant Neil Higgins said: "A young man has tragically lost his life and we are trying to understand how that happened. Anyone who witnessed the collision and has not already spoken to police can contact 101."

A female first

A NEW chief prosecutor has been appointed for the West Midlands.

Grace Ononiwu OBE will take over from Harry Ireland, who has retired. She will become the first female chief crown prosecutor and first from an ethnic minority community.

Extra car spaces at college sports pavilion

A new £390,000 sports pavilion is to be built after a college agreed to increase the number of car parking spaces, following concerns from residents.

King Edward VI College in Stourbridge submitted plans for the pavilion at Green Fields, in Swinfold Road, to replace an outdated facility at the site.

Dudley Council officers recommended the scheme be approved but members delayed making a decision to allow more time to consider car parking.

College bosses had intended for there to be a 12-space park next to the new pavilion but residents feared that was not enough with vehicles already parked along both sides of Swinfold Road and on pavements.

The car park had now been increased to 24 spaces. It is the second time the number of parking spaces has been increased with only six planned originally.

Officials said plans for the pavilion had now been approved under delegated powers. As part of the scheme, the college will

demolish the existing pavilion with the new facility offering improved facilities and slightly larger floor space.

The new building will include four team changing rooms, each with a shower room and toilets. In addition there will be a classroom, a small kitchen and a sheltered social area for spectators. The plan has been made possible thanks to grants from Sport England and Stourbridge Football Club.

In a supporting document, agent Steve Wells Associates said the existing pavilion

no longer met Sport England demands and was close to breaching health and safety and child protection requirements.

Residents said that over the past 18 months there had been an increase in use at the site on Saturdays and Sundays, which had resulted in cars often being parked 'bumper to bumper'.

The pavilion is not only used by the college but also for matches and training by teams of both Stourbridge FC and Stourbridge Cricket Club.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More signing up to donate organs

THOUSANDS of people in Dudley have signed up to the organ donor register since the start of a council campaign.

The number of donors on the register from the borough has gone up by 20.9 per cent in two years.

There are now 65,560 people registered, up by 6,694 since Dudley Council launched an urgent appeal for more donors.

As part of National Transplant Week, last week they are continuing to appeal to more people to help save lives. Visit www.transplantweek.co.uk

More mortgages getting approval

MORTGAGE completions by the Tipton and Coseley Building Society were up by 26 per cent in the first six months of this year.

Mortgage applications processed during the first half of the year also outperformed the same period of 2013.

Mortgage completions by the society, which also has branches in Sedgley and Bilston, from January to June totalled £21.06 million and applications reached £33.72m compared to £31.30m in 2013.

Yellow Rattle ale will help wildlife

REAL ale drinkers will be helping local wildlife every time they quaff a pint of new brew Yellow Rattle.

The 4.5 per cent strength beer has been created by Sadler's Ales in Lye to support the work The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country.

People can have a brush with royalty and take a look at the suite where the Duke and Duchess of Kent honeymooned in 1934, or see the servants' quarters or a secret tunnel under the courtyard.

Sally Newell, Himley estate manager, said: "Visitors on guided tours get to see rooms not normally open to the public. It's a history of the top floor down to the cellars."

"These are all unrefurbished rooms and visitors will be getting a glimpse behind closed doors."

The refurbished north wing, complete with Art Deco style swimming pool and cinema bar, will also be available on the tours.

The dates for the tours are July 17, 23, 24 and 30, as well as August 6, 13, 14, 19, 20, 27 and 28, September 3, 4, 9 and 10.

The tours cost £6.90 per person including tea, coffee and biscuits.

Pre-booking is essential

and can be done by calling

Himley Hall staff on (01384)

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Upstairs downstairs on a tour of the hall

LANDMARK Himley Hall is unlocking its secrets for visitors with the opening of some of its usually unseen rooms for a series of guided public tour.

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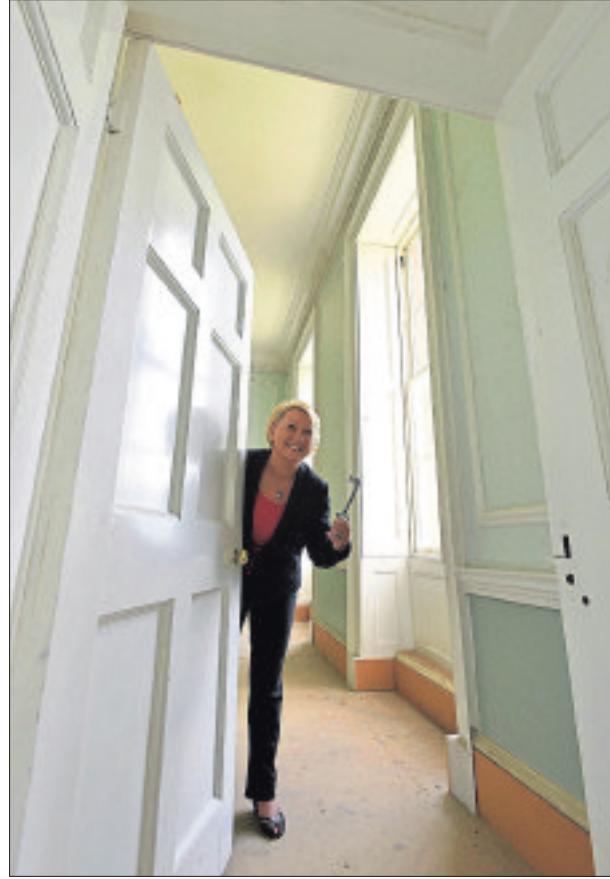
Pub could make way for homes

A PUB will be demolished and replaced with five large homes under plans lodged with Dudley Council.

The Yew Tree Inn, on Hockley Lane, Netherton, will be knocked down if the proposal by Horgan Homes is approved. Outline plans to replace the closed pub were given the go-ahead in December.

Charity car wash

A CHARITY car wash is taking place at a supermarket in Kingswinford on Saturday to raise money for Diabetes UK. The event is taking place at Tesco Express, Moss Grove, from noon to 2pm for donations.



Catering manager Tracey Reece at Himley Hall, where guided tours are being held

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A COURT in Amsterdam has ordered the city to reconsider the yuletide appearance of "Black Pete," Santa Claus's traditional helper, after complaints that he is a negative racial stereotype. How long before Santa himself is banned on the grounds that he looks like Rolf Harris?

THE used-banger business has given us a rich vein of ducking, dodging and diving over the years but the growing curse of the "administrative fee" takes the biscuit. This is an arbitrary sum, often about £75, slapped on the price of your car to cover items such as a check on its hire-purchase status. I was amused online to find one dealer explaining earnestly that he couldn't waive this fee for a customer because, if an earlier customer found out, "they (the dealer) can be made to repay anyone who has paid the fee before." Cobblers but isn't it strangely reassuring to know the spirit of Arthur Daley is alive and well?



CHANCELLOR George Osborne was trapped by a kid on a school visit who asked him: "What's seven times eight?" Quick as a flash, Osborne replied: "I've made it a rule in life not to answer a load of maths questions." Quick thinking, eh? Firstly, the Chancellor ducks the risk of getting the answer wrong. Secondly, he avoids slipping into the habits of the City where, if the client asks: "What's seven times eight?" the customary answer is: "Well, what figure did you have in mind, old boy?"

A STUDY reveals that children are now more likely to be bullied online than in the playground. I dare say someone, somewhere has filed this result under "progress."

A READER asks why is it that normal restaurants offer a vegetarian option but if you go into a vegetarian restaurant and ask for the meat option, they get really shirty?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

A COMPANY rep swindled his Halesowen bosses out of £100,000 with orders for phones from fictitious firms, a court was told.

Stephen Charles Clark bought hundreds of phones using cash from the accounts of facilities firm EBC Group Halesowen, where he worked for three years, before forwarding them to businesses he had set up or were run by friends.

Southwark Crown Court heard that Clark operated the con between October 2012 and June 2013 before bosses became suspicious over bills from network providers for phones they had never set eyes on.

Seized

The West Midlands Regional Fraud Team probed the business books and found the 42-year-old had pocketed around £100,000 from selling on the phones. When Metropolitan Police officers – interested in Clark as part of a separate case – seized his car they found more than £200,000 hidden in the boot.

Clark went on to admit three counts of theft, for which he was jailed for 12 months, and was found guilty of money laundering relating to the cash haul for which he will spend 15 more months behind bars.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Alistair Gadd, said: "Clark has left a black hole in the accounts of his former employer but a Proceeds of Crime Act application is under way to seize

assets we can prove were funded through criminal means. None of the phones have been recovered. They were quickly sold on with Clark pocketing the cash – whilst the money laundering was linked to a Met Police drug distribution inquiry.

"Clark's career is in ruins and we'll be pushing hard to recover every penny of the money he swindled from the company."

Clark, from Saxons Meadow, Hartlebury, Worcestershire, was jailed when he appeared at Southwark Crown Court, London, on 26 June.

The West Midlands Regional Fraud Team, consisting of six West Midlands Police officers, was established last November and aims to disrupt crime networks by probing the finances of suspected criminals.

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Man dies 20 years after van accident

A MAN died from epilepsy caused by a head injury which he received more than 20 years ago when he fell out of a van.

Father-of-one Matthew Walden died at his home in Halesowen on June 29 after suffering an epileptic fit. An inquest heard how his epilepsy was caused by a serious head injury in 1991.

Mr Walden's sister Amanda Walden told the hearing how she and her brother had been in a van being driven by a friend travelling in Lye after a party. As the van went around a corner, Mr Walden was thrown out of the van through a sliding door.

Mrs Walden said: "It is something I will never forget." The inquest, at Smethwick Coroner's Court, also heard that the personality of the 43-year-old from Brett Young Close had changed after the incident.

Miss Walden said: "He was very angry for a while. He was a lot better as he got older but he was quite aggressive."

Senior Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said Mr Walden had his first epileptic fit a year after the accident. His sister told the inquest that over the past few years he "seemed to have more and more."

Mr Balmain recorded his death was due to epilepsy, following an accident.

Mother backs knife campaign



Christina's parents left at the launch of the knife bin

THE mother of stabbing victim Christina Edkins urged people to hand in their weapons as she helped police unveil new knife amnesty bins.

The Halesowen schoolgirl's parents Kathleen and Jason Harris spoke publicly for the first time since the 16-year-old's death last year. She was stabbed on a bus in Birmingham while travelling to Leasowes High School.

Her killer, mentally ill Phillip Simelane from Wall, was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order.

Miss Edkins' parents attended the launch of the knife surrender bin at Tesco Fiveways in Edgbaston, close to where the teenager died.

Mrs Harris said: "I don't think people realise the effect that knife crime has on people."

"It destroys not only the victim's parents but their family and friends as well."

"We can never have our Christina back but if this bin can even help one person to get rid of one knife, and save one life, then it will have been worthwhile."

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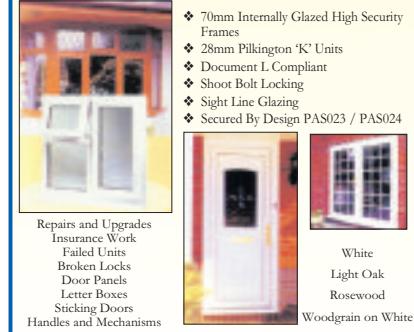
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Mother in false claims for benefits £30k fraud

A MOTHER from Halesowen who fiddled more than £30,000 in benefits has avoided an immediate jail term.

Caroline Bennett told the Department of Work and Pensions she was living alone when she had a partner who was working as a bus driver, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 47-year-old, of Howley Grange Road, had denied two charges of failing to notify the Department of a change in her circumstances. But she was found guilty by a jury after a three day trial. She fraudulently obtained £30,640 in benefits.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, stressed the scam had not been illegal from the start, adding: "There were a number of difficulties in her personal life, difficulties she still struggles with."

Judge Helen Hughes told Bennett: "You received a large amount of money to which you were not entitled."

"Things have been going on in your life you should have dealt with. I hope you have learned your lesson good and proper."

Bennett was handed a

nine-month jail term suspended for two years.

She was also placed on supervision for 12 months and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work in the community.

Plans for 14 homes on former fire station site

MOVES to demolish a former fire station – which residents campaigned to keep – and replace it with a an estate of 14 homes have taken a step forward.

Halesowen Fire Station was earmarked for housing after approval was given for the idea by Dudley Council in January last year. The station was closed down two years ago despite a campaign by the local community.

Money from the sale will go towards the £3 million replacement station in Cradley Heath.

Three-storey

Horgan Homes has submitted a planning application to knock down the empty building in Hagley Road and build 14 homes.

Under the proposal lodged with Dudley Council, the firm says the estate would be made up of detached, semi-detached and three-storey homes.

It claims the homes would result in a reduction of traffic compared to the station when it was open. It also says there will be no parking problems due to the 48 off-street spaces being provided.

Halesowen South councillor David Vickers said: "I think the local people would like anything to be done with it. The building has been left to rot at present.

ent and we need action. I always had a problem with the moving of the fire station, people in Halesowen wanted the station to stay put but the move was passed and we're now looking at a new station being built on our boundary."

The new station, which will open in August and will serve Halesowen and Cradley Heath, will be at the junction of Barrs Road and Halesowen Road on the site of a former municipal building. It will be called Haden Cross Community Fire Station and will be a base for 44 firefighters.

Following the closure of Halesowen Fire Station, outline plans were submitted for 22 new houses but the plan was downsized following pressure from local residents. More than 40 people signed a petition against the initial proposal.

Community use call for civic building



Historic – The old Halesowen Council House in Great Cornbow, Halesowen

OPTIONS will be considered for the future of an historic but deserted civic building in Halesowen.

Halesowen Council House has been empty since staff moved out in March.

Community activist John Young wants to save the wood-panelled mayor's office for future use by the public.

The empty building, in Great Cornbow, was opened on June 30 for one hour to allow interested residents to view inside and submit ideas for future use of the listed 19th century building.

Mr Young, aged 81, who organised the tour, said: "Around 30 people attended and there was a lot of interest. People who came along were pleased to see a part of their heritage."

The retired chartered engineer from Grange Hill added: "I have always wanted to have a room in Halesowen that could be used as a community space. The mayor's parlour is symbolic of what Halesowen used to be like."

The campaigner fears the building could be sold to developers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free outdoor gig for local musicians

YOUNG bands and singers will be taking to the stage at an annual gig on Sunday.

Staff at Haden Hill House, in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, are hosting the outdoor event which will run from noon to 6pm. There will be a range of acts performing during the afternoon.

Museum services manager Jane Hanney said: "It's a great opportunity for young talent to get on stage and we've had some fantastic performers over the years and a few dancers too."

"It is also great event for visitors to come along to the park and just enjoy the free live music, bring a picnic and stay all afternoon."

Will-making cash boost for charity

AN OLDBURY solicitor's is among a number of law firms in the Black Country that have helped raise almost £25,000 for charity.

The 25 solicitors firms, from across the region, asked clients who had drawn up a will, to make a donation to Will Aid instead of paying them a fee. Will Aid is a partnership between solicitors and nine charities, including Action-Aid, Age UK and the British Red Cross. In total, the firms raised £24,265 for the charities by waiving their fees for the wills.

Among those who helped were Middleton Dummer in Oldbury and Waldrons.

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IN MY VIEW**with Mark Andrews**

BARONESS Butler-Sloss, the aunt of actor Nigel Havers, has stepped down from her role as chairman of an inquiry into allegations of a child-abuse cover-up before she even started.

She was supposed to be investigating claims that the establishment – including senior figures in the police, clergy and judiciary, as well as a number of MPs – had tried to hush the whole thing up. Some said, as the sister of the Attorney General of the time, she was too close to the establishment herself.

It probably didn't help when her nephew, actor Nigel Havers, weighed in to defend his aunt's honour, but one would not envy the Home Secretary in choosing a replacement. A senior judge who is not part of the establishment?

□□□

WOT did yo do for Black Country Day, then mucker?

When Dudley musician 'Black Country Gaz' Sawers first had the idea for a day to celebrate all that is best about the Cradle of British Industry, he could never have guessed how it would have taken off, with word about the event even spreading to the heart of Downing Street. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer got in on the act by posing with a Black Country flag.

The thing that has made the past few days so memorable was that it was not something imposed on the region by the great and the good, but that it actually came from the people of the Black Country themselves. Yes, the councils played an important role in supporting it, but it truly was a grass roots event. Even the flag was designed by Stourbridge schoolgirl, Gracie Shepherd.

While the Government and lottery pours millions of pounds into so-called cultural events designed to promote the various parts of Britain, Black Country Mon just gets on with it – no PR consultants, no glossy advertising, just a lot of hard graft.

This was the ingenuity which turned the Black Country into the industrial powerhouse of the world. Boston', ay it?

□□□

SUPPOSE you won £52,000 on the lottery, or maybe the Premium Bonds, or inherited it in a will. What would you do? Carefully consider how you will use the money? Mabye think about paying off the mortgage, or a new car perhaps?

Well when Michaela Hutchings of Lichfield incorrectly had £52,000 paid into her account by the city council, she went out to Birmingham's Bull Ring shopping centre and blew £8,000 on designer clothes within 48 hours. She has since been ordered to pay the money back or face going to jail, and she claims she is being victimised because she is a bit of a looker. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

But she is hardly a model of financial responsibility, is she?



Ready for the off — the crowd at Himley park



A tropical theme for these two generations of runners



And they're away... on the run to fight cancer

WEEK IN POLITICS

W^HEN there are times I wonder if some of the Tories enjoy a good strike.

It gives them the chance to remind the country of Labour's reliance on the unions and try to get everyone to gang up on them.

It's our children who suffered the loss of a day's precious education, the critics say. It's the hardworking (all the parties love that word) parents who had to make alternative arrangements. The unions say they're doing this for everyone. The Tories say they're hurting everyone.

The taxpaying public are playing piggy in the middle while our kids' education and future is in an emotional custody battle between opposing ideologies. The unions make the valid point that it wasn't lollipop ladies, bin men or social workers that caused the recession.

Neither was it the children or the mums and dads who have been inconvenienced by a shut school or left with a full bin on the basis of a strike justified with turnouts as low as 20 per cent in some unions.

Firefighters had a much bigger turnout for their ballot.

But their own reasons for striking – particularly the concern over 60-year-old firefighters being expected to carry people out of burning buildings due to pension reforms – were swept up in a general wave of public sector discontent because everyone chose the same day to walk out. Everyone walking out at once might have grabbed the headlines, but it also let the Government to condemn them en masse rather than address the many and varied concerns each union has.

Meanwhile Tory, Lib Dem and Labour MPs who either imposed miserable austerity on the country or presided over years of unsustainable spending (debate those points among yourselves) were probably not too bothered by schools shutting.

They earn more than double the national average salary. I can't imagine any of them was particularly stretched by the extra childcare costs.

At least the Tories took a side, whether rightly or wrongly, in condemning the strike.

Labour chose to neither support nor condemn it officially even though its bread is buttered by the unions and their donations.

It's a strange position to take because Labour owes its very existence to the trade union movement.

I don't see why Ed Miliband needs to appear so coy about it.

He could do with working out exactly where he stands with public sector strikes so the unions know what they're letting themselves in for if he becomes Prime Minister.

As any 'hardworking' person affected by the walkouts will attest, playing piggy in the middle is no fun at all.

'Fantastic day of tears and laughter'

More than 2,000 women and girls took to their heels in Himley Park raising cash for Cancer Research UK

WOMEN gave cancer a kicking as around 2,000 friends and relatives took part in the Race for Life in the grounds of Himley Hall.

For many taking part it proved an emotional day as they remembered loved ones. But everyone came together to show their fighting spirit – all while donning pink and fancy dress outfits to make the day go with a bang.

Organisers were hoping to raise thousands to help the battle against cancer from the event on Sunday.

Stride

Many took part in an energetic warm up in the shadow of the hall before two scheduled races during the day.

And then it was best foot forward as they stride out through the park and the along the waterside of the pool.

Collette O'Toole, aged 51, brought a several family members including her sister Roseleen Sadler, 43, and 26-year-old daughter Katie from Tipton to take part.

They were remembering her parents Sheila who died two years ago aged 74 after suffering bile duct cancer. Just 12 weeks later her husband and their father Patrick, 79, also passed away from cancer.

"It was an emotional day for everyone," she said. "But we got all the family together to keep each other going."

Mother-of-three Nins Gill, 37, left her sons at home to join sister Davi Dhami and her children Syah, 11, and 15-year-old Tia for the Race for Life event.

Mrs Gill, of Black Lake, West Brom-



Pretty in pink and off to a screaming start at the Race for Life in Himley

wich, was doing the race in memory of her mother Rajinder Bindra who died 17 years ago aged just 53 of cancer of the oesophagus.

"It was a fun day," she said. "It was good to see everyone coming together to help people with cancer."

Natalie Eustace, aged 37, took part with her friend Sam Priest and their daughters, Annalise, 11, and Alicia, 10, on the day.

Mrs Eustace, of Hedgesford Road, Heath Hayes, said the Himley event was their third on the row having

previously ran in Walsall and Telford. The group always chose a fancy dress theme, this year picking St Trinian's outfit complete with hockey sticks.

That proved useful for Sam who had to hobble around the course after sustaining a foot injury.

They were determined to complete the course to help raise more than £150.

It had taken on special significance for Mrs Eustace's family as her father Keith, 77, had recently received news he was clear of bowel cancer.

Tracey Duffy, event organiser, said:

"I want to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in Race for Life, and their supporters, as well as our heroic volunteers."

"It was a fantastic day, full of emotion, courage, tears and laughter as over 3,400 women joined forces to show cancer who's boss."

"Now I'm asking all the women who took part and all the friends, family and colleagues who pledged to sponsor them, to transform their passion into progress by returning the money they've raised as soon as possible."

Cost

Cancer Research UK does not receive any Government funding for its work. Money raised goes towards researchers who help more men, women and children survive.

Ms Duffy added: "Many people don't realise that their entry fee only covers the cost of the event."

"It's the sponsorship money that really makes a difference."

"So, whatever the amount, we're asking everyone to make every effort to return their sponsorship money as soon as possible. It can be paid in online, by phone or by cheque."

Nell Barrie, Cancer Research UK's senior science communication manager, said: "Each year more and more people are diagnosed with cancer, so there's still much more to do."

"That's why we need everyone who took part in Race for Life in Dudley to make every step count by supporting our doctors, nurses and scientists so they can take strides forward in the fight against this devastating disease."

Some 2,300 or so women, children and one man – ran around Wolverhampton's West Park last month as part of the Wolverhampton Race for Life, one of the Black Country's other major in the pink fundraisers which had a target of £150,000 to boost Cancer Research UK.

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For those of us who believe in a god or have any form of human compassion, let us be grateful our circumstances are not so desperate that we have to resort to risking life and limb by travelling on overcrowded

unsafe boats or on the undercarriages of lorries to reach Europe.

Christ said: "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me."

There are enough resources in this world to meet everyone's need but not everyone's greed.

Our nation was recently touched by the marvellous example shown by Stephen Sutton. Hopefully, the selfless generosity of spirit he displayed will live with us.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP
St Thomas' Church Tettenhall

Passport chaos is a disgrace

THE passport office is in chaos. This coalition government, through axing hundreds of jobs, have now a backlog of almost 500,000 applicants waiting for their passports.

It costs the passport office £57 to process a passport, they charge £72.50, so they stand to make around £50 million profit which will go straight back to the treasury. In the meantime, thousands of holiday makers are at risk of not receiving their passports in time for their holidays. It is costing £1m a month on overtime and calling in extra staff.

Sacking staff and treating public service as if it was a profit-making exercise just shows they are not fit to govern. You have to blame David Cameron and Theresa May for this.

They should be using this £50m on getting staff reinstated to get this backlog cleared as a matter of urgency. After all, the people applying have filled in their forms correctly and paid their money up front.

B WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

PM's promises may not be workable

THE Prime Minister came to the Black Country promising to invest £138.7m of taxpayers' money in the area over the next five years of which it is claimed that £35m will be spent on projects in the next year alone.

Some of the projects proposed such as road and motorway improvements do make sense. As the country is £1 trillion in debt I have to ask how this money can be found without stoking up yet more debt for future generations?

Although with the vast majority of the investment planned over the next five years it does sound to me rather like the cheque is in the post and like so many promises that have been made to Black Country communities in the past I have

to question if this cheque arrives will it bounce?

There are plans to train people to work in the construction industry - foreign nationals from poorer EU countries already undercut British construction workers on labour charges and I would argue such schemes may prove to be worthless unless the problem of mass uncontrolled immigration is solved first.

He also plans to spend some of the investment on the infrastructure on the white elephant that is HS2. I would call on Mr Cameron to invest the money in local rail schemes such as the Wednesday to Merry Hill metro link.

GRAHAM EARDLEY
UKIP PPC for West Bromwich West

Memories of cousins

I AM hoping that some (elderly) readers may remember G E Young and Sons (butchers) and Taylors (ice cream makers) who had shops in Bilston High Street in the 40s and 50s.

George and Sally Young were my grandparents. They had nine children of whom three were girls; Gwen whose married name was Harwood and later Pearman, Ivy whose married name was Meredith, Lily whose married name was Flavell. Their children are my cousins and I have lost contact with them.

The Taylors had a son, my cousin, who attended Northmanhurst boarding school in the dreadful winter of 1947.

If you have information please contact by email on johnnijj.harwood@btinter.net.com or by calling 01926 651109.

J HARWOOD
Warwick

Thank mechanic mystery man

ON Saturday, June 28, my daughter was driving towards Franche when a piece of metal fell from underneath her car, clanging on the road.

She pulled up near the Co-op and to her surprise a mechanic appeared from nowhere, had seen it happen, got underneath and sorted the problem out and promptly disappeared. This just proves there are still some really good kind and caring people about. My daughter Claire would like to thank this gentleman as she does not have his name.

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Balti restaurant is hot stuff with award



Manager Foz Miah and the head chef Mohammed Monsur Ali at the award-winning Balti Bazaar in Lye

A BALTI restaurant in the heart of the Black Country is cooking up a storm after adding another gong to its award-winning reputation.

The Balti Bazaar restaurant in Lye has been given The Guild Award of Excellence 2014 for the town of Lye.

The restaurant was the only business in the town, which is the heart of the Black Country balti belt, to receive the award given out at The Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs for the town of Lye.

whole of Staffordshire and the Black Country region this summer.

The glittering ceremony was held at Walsall Town Hall and saw 22 restaurants receiving awards.

The 70-seater restaurant in High Street won the prestigious prize after a secret visit by food critics to the popular eatery.

Delighted

They were judged on customers service, food quality and cleanliness.

Owner Rais Miah said: "We are delighted.

"It shows the work we are doing is

being appreciated and we hope to continue our service for our customers."

The restaurant employs seven people but bosses are on the look-out for up to three new staff.

Mr Miah said: "We are doing very well but the only problem we are having is getting in good trained staff."

This is not the first time the restaurant has won an award.

In 2011 Balti Bazaar won the West Midlands regional prize at the Spice Times Restaurant Awards and in 2009 the restaurant's chef was Curry Chef of the Year.

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Bostin' weekend as the Black Country flag flies

IF one word could sum up the joyous scenes celebrating Black Country Day it has to be bostin'.

The first festival of music, culture and, most importantly, fun, created a party giving the community a cause to smile as they celebrated our region's special day.

Black Country Day was celebrated over the weekend and on the actual day, Monday, July 14, not only in our corner of the country but around the world.

Castle

From Dudley Castle to soldiers serving in Afghanistan, it has never felt better to be a Black Countryman.

Festival founder 'Black Country' Gaz Sawers said: "I can't think of a better word than bostin' to say how great it is that so many people are behind the festival and want to celebrate Black Country Day."

Hundreds of the 5ft x 3ft flags flew off the shelves at the Black Country Living Museum and Black Country T-Shirt Shop in Cradley Heath.

Paul Palmer, owner of Black Country T-Shirt Shop, said: "In under two days we have sold 75 flags. We have sold about 300 of them. It shows everyone's proud to be where they are from."

Hundreds of events took place and it proved a red, white and black extravaganza as the Black Country Flag flew proudly as thousands turned out for a weekend mostly blessed with good weather.

Traditional comedy stars like Aynuk joined a new generation of performers like The Fizzogs as crowds celebrated the return of the Black Country Night Out at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

Dudley's Stone Street square was transformed by stallholders and mu-



Dudley Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock ensured the flag flew on Dudley Castle tained shoppers in Halesowen town centre and at the Red House Glass Cone. More than 20,000 people poured through the gates of West Park for the Wolverhampton and Black Country Festival and there was a Black Country pride to them to the OH Festival in Old Hill. It was a bostin' weekend.

There was a picnic in the park at Warley Woods, a community event at The Dell Stadium, while acts enter-

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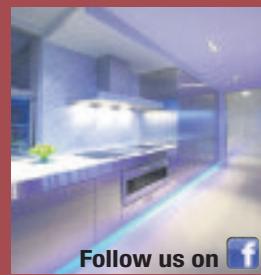
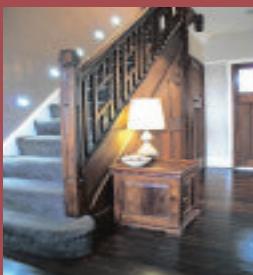
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Leader Valerie Jones with successors Nathan Sidaway and Suzanne Jones



Pictured during a trip to the Black Country Living Museum in the 1980s



Valerie Jones front left with fellow scout leaders during training in the 1980s



Scout Leader Valerie Jones pictured in 1983 with her son, Gavin. He's a scout leader himself now

Scout stalwart Val calls it a day after 32 years

A SCOUT leader with more than three decades of work in Dudley has hung up her neckerchief and woggle for the last time.

Second Lower Gornal's Scout Group leader Valerie Jones is stepping down from her position after more than 32 years.

The 62-year-old former cashier addressed the crowd of scouts and their families at the group's AGM, and wished them luck for the future before she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a badge for long service within the scouting organisation.

Husband

The decision to retire from her position as group leader comes following the death of her husband Des to cancer last year. They both spent 32 years helping out at the group in Temple Street after seeing both their sons go through the ranks.

She said: "It was time for me to step

MEMORY LANE

By Tom Mason

down and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a scout leader. This is a job that requires you to give 100 per cent but since Des passed away I haven't been able to give that, and it wasn't fair on the group.

"I love children and it's wonderful to see them grow up and get their badges, progress and move on.

"I feel so proud when I see one of my former scouts who have gone on to be a policeman or when they bring their own children here to learn what they learned."

Valerie first joined the group in 1983 when her son Gavin became a Cub when he was eight. He is still with the Scouts as a leader at the age of 41.

Back in '83 she was asked to help out and soon became a dedicated helper.

"I ended up being there for 32 years," she said. "I was assistant helper first, then I became a cub

leader, then a scout leader, then assistant group scout leader and then full group scout leader, which is how I am retiring now.

"I started because of the children, getting involved with them and seeing what they get out of it, to see them get something out of life. But then I just stuck with it because I enjoyed it."

She particularly enjoyed the trips to camps abroad, such as Switzerland and Paris.

"I remember one time we went to France on the coach, and there were two group leaders with us who were older ladies. They asked the driver is he could get the coach as close to the beach as he could, as they couldn't walk far. Then we got stuck. We were there for hours with trucks coming to try to move us and we ended up on the front page of the local paper."

She added: "I have seen a lot change. Where once the boys would be given a piece of wood to whittle or allowed to climb trees now we have to fill out a risk assessment but maybe that's for the best."



Valerie proudly pictured in uniform, she says: 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a scout leader'

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Firm fined after boy's head was stuck in gate

A FIRM has been fined after an eight-year-old boy's head got stuck in an automated school gate.

Oliver Mincher was on his way out of Bedmore CE Primary School with his father on September 25, 2012, when the gate closed on him, causing bruising to his head and ear.

Leicester-based Access Control Solutions Ltd has now been fined £3,300 over the incident following a court hearing.

At Dudley Crown Court last week Oliver's father Dan Bansal described the incident as 'dreadful'. He said: "You don't send your children to school and expect them to be injured. I was shocked. He ran off in front of me and I called to him to tell him to wait, as past the gate is a public area. He stopped in the gateway to look at me. It hit his shoulder and before I knew where I was he was screaming at the top of his voice."

Mr Bansal said he had to use all of his force to try to get Oliver out of the gate. After a few seconds staff inside the school saw what was happening and pressed the release button. He added: "Oliver is OK now, he talks about it and it gives him nightmares sometimes."

Prosecuting solicitor Mrs Sarah Palfreyman, on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive, said there was no safety trip fitted to the gate despite this having been identified as a risk.

She said: "The guard they said would be fitted wasn't fitted. The gate there wasn't the gate they expected it to be, so the guard they had did not fit and no guard was fitted."

Speaking on behalf of the company, Mr Tom Panton said it was a matter of 'absolute dismay' that the company found itself in court. He said: "This has never happened before, nothing ever even remotely like it."

Mr Panton also said the company



Nightmares – Oliver Mincher, aged 10, is pictured with his father Dan Bansal

He explained that the intention had always been to fit the proper safety measures to the gate but that it was a 'source of some embarrassment that the company can't narrow down precisely why intention didn't match reality'.

Magistrates fined the company £3,300, and ordered it to pay court costs of £773.

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MP joins charity climb in memory of campaigner



Walkers MP Ian Austin, Steve Walther, Dave Tyler, Shaz Saleem and Adam Aston at the Bissell memorial

AN annual climb of Ben Nevis is being launched to honour a celebrated peace campaigner and raise charity funds.

A group of walkers including Dudley North MP Ian Austin will take on the gruelling trek on August 6.

He will be joined by the mayor's consort Councillor Adam Aston, deputy mayor Councillor Steve Walther and armed forces champion Councillor Dave Tyler.

Christian peace campaigner Bert Bissell, who died aged 96 in 1998, a probation officer, lived in Selborne

Road, Dudley, and had founded the Young Men's Bible Class at Vicar Street. He climbed Ben Nevis in Scotland on VJ Day in 1945 and many times afterwards, constructing a Peace Cairn at its summit. There is a monument to Mr Bissell at Coronation Gardens opposite the Council House.

Mr Bissell was a friend of the Austin family and all funds raised will go to the Mayor's charities (Action Heart and Guide Dogs), the children's unit at Russells Hall, local Royal British Legion and Black Country Fast Aid for ambulances. See www.berthbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk for more details.



Bert Bissell — erected a peace cairn

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Caitlin builds a girl in her own image

REVIEWS BOOKS

by Leon Burakowski

CAITLIN Moran is at pains in the preface of her new novel to stress that it is a work of fiction, even though her hero Johanna — like Caitlin — comes from a large family on a Wolverhampton council estate and gets her big break writing for the music press.

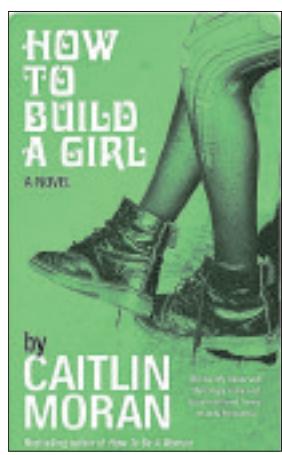
The early part of *How To Build A Girl* (Ebury, hardback, £14.99) reads like her flawed sit-com *Raised By Wolves* rather than the sparky, witty ladette feminism of her best-seller *How To Be A Woman*. It is actually her second novel having written published fantasy *The Chronicles of Narnia* when 15.

She hits her stride in rude and rum-bustious, self-deprecating style and, like her best journalism, the frivolous fun has moments of insight. But if you have read her Wolverhampton memories in her non-fiction, it is hard not to see character and author as one.

William Boyd is the latest author to revive James Bond and he does a good job in *Solo* (Vintage, paperback, £7.99). This is Ian Fleming's Bond rather than the movie versions. He drinks too much, smokes too much, eyes every attractive woman as a possible conquest, and has a cruel, vengeful streak. We meet Bond celebrating his 45th birthday in 1969 with fine dining and wine at The Dorchester, reminiscing about his D-Day experiences. Boyd gives this adventure an agreeable retro feel as M sends 007 on a mission to a African civil war with oil revenues up for grabs. In a nice touch for devotees, the author adds a few tasty extras like the recipe for Bond's favourite salad dressing, probably shaken not stirred.



Author and journalist Caitlin Moran



How To Build A Girl published by Ebury

Another resurrected sleuth this summer is the aristocratic Peter Wimsey, who finds his elevation to a dukedom embroils him in a row between Oxford college academics in *The Late Scholar* (Hodder & Stoughton, paperback, £8.99). Things turn nasty when the squabbles over an ancient manuscript leads to murder akin to one that featured in a novel by his mystery writer wife Harriet. Jill Paton Walsh does Dorothy L Sayers proud in this delightfully old fashioned whodunit.

Horror thriller *The Girl With All The Gifts* (Orbit, hardback, £12.99) is a tense and poignant post-apocalypse tale with a tender strand of maternal love at its heart. With sudden moments of gory violence, M. R. Carey (who writes for comics, including mighty

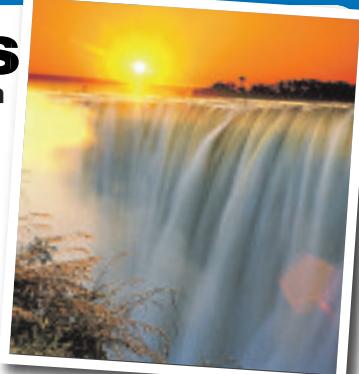
Marvel) has created a real page-turner blending the best elements from 28 Days Later and Let The Right One In. After a bleak and powerful beginning, the story of special little girl Melanie becomes a tale of survival on the road as a band of survivors aim for home through a English countryside where lurking dangers include terrifying zombie-like Hungries and lawless Junkers.

Chiller *The Voices* (Pan, paperback, £7.99) recalls the long hot summer of 1976. Author F. R. Wallis is clearly a fantasy fan, making one of his characters a composer with the BBC Radiophonic Workshop, referencing Hammer horror and Star Wars. In this slow-burning haunted house story a family find strange voices leaking through electrical devices in their big Victorian house.

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A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

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It's from till to tome for checkout worker with novel

A SHOP assistant is hoping keen readers will 'checkout' her new novel after she realised her dream of becoming an author.

Mother-of-two Donna Brittle was inspired to reach her goal after her father John Cole passed away suddenly.

The 35-year-old from Sedgley is celebrating after her novel, *Beautifully Unbroken*, was published.

She lives with my husband of 14-years Matthew, also 35, in Milking Bank, Dudley, who she met while attending the Dormont School.

Donna, who works part time at a nearby Tesco Express, has been coming up with ideas for her own book over the years.

She started writing *Beautifully Unbroken* around 18 months ago but when her father became ill last summer the writing stalled.

He died just before Christmas aged 62 after a cancer battle. Donna said she resolved that life was too short to put things off and she pressed ahead with her writing.

"My prime goal was to get the book published so as I had my very own copy on my bookshelf next to my many other favourite books but the response has gone above and beyond anything I ever expected," she said.

"I feel very overwhelmed that I can now hold my own book in my hands and know that I did that, I dreamed the dream and it became reality," she added.

Her novel tells the story of British actress Jo Summers, who faces past relationships in a bid to find happiness. It is available on Amazon as a download and paperback and on Google Play books.



Donna Brittle from Dudley has published her first novel, about a woman facing obstacles on the path to love

House prices are ready to rocket up

AVERAGE house prices in the West Midlands are on course to break the £200,000 barrier by the end of next year, says a new report.

Officials say it is a sign of the increasing strength in the region's economy with growth expected to almost double this year.

Experts at leading accountancy firm PwC – formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers – say the recovery in the wider UK economy could see interest rates starting to rise as early as the end of this year.

While that might cause a slight slowdown in the housing market, as some families fear higher mortgage repayments, PwC is still predicting average house prices in the West Midlands could hit £210,000 by the end of next year. They could rise as high as £256,000 by 2020.

It is a reflection of how the UK housing market has leapt back into life over the past 12 to 18 months with prices rising across the country.

House prices are expected to rise eight per cent in the West Midlands this year, up from £184,000 at the end of 2013.

Council to make an additional £4m of cuts

DUDLEY Council needs to make an extra £4 million of cuts this year to balance its books.

Finance bosses say the fresh cuts during the 2014/15 financial year will help them to deal with a greater shortfall in funding during the following three years.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for finance, said: "We are facing the deepest cuts to the council's budget in living memory."

"To manage this difficult situation as prudently as possible we are bringing forward planned cuts into this financial year. This protects council reserves and leaves us in a stronger position going forward."

Some of the savings will be made by restructuring departments and increasing burial fees, which was approved in April.

Bankrupt

The council needs to save £30m over the next three years with 27 compulsory and 72 voluntary redundancies planned for this year. It follows the loss of 621 jobs from the council over the previous three years.

The council says the drop in Government funding had not been as bad as first feared.

Council leader David Sparks said: "The situation is at Dudley by 2016 we will have a gap of £30.2million between income and expenditure. We therefore have to take corrective action because we are determined we will not go bankrupt."

"We have had a exercise of looking at activities of council to see where we can make further savings. We have identified four million

Taxpayers paying out convict compensation

TAXPAYERS are paying out £138,000 a year in compensation to convicted criminals attacked in prison – sparking anger from a Black Country MP who unearthed the figure.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has received figures from Parliament which show settlements for victims of jail assaults over the past four years came to a total of £552,000.

Notable awards include Milly Dowler's killer Levi Bellfield, who received £4,500 in April following an assault. Others to receive money include Moors murderer Ian Brady and Soham murderer Ian Huntley. These figures come after reports of overcrowded and under-staffed prisons coincided with a 25 per cent rise in the number of assaults in jail. Mr Austin said: "Decent law-abiding families will be shocked to discover services they rely on are being cut back and families are being hit with the bedroom tax, while the Government is letting compensation for criminals go up every year."

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Discover how the tower was defended via the interactive displays and hear the legendary Beefeaters who guard the tower walls, telling tales of the unlucky few who passed through Traitors Gate.

A visit is also made to the Imperial War Museum in central London. To celebrate the anniversary of the First World War, the museum will open new galleries and a redesigned atrium telling stories of the many men and women who lived and served on the home and fighting front. Admire the world's largest collection of Victoria crosses, see the biggest display of British First World War art in almost 100 years and for young historians, the family exhibition Horrible Histories® is a must.

INFO

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- Visit to the Imperial War Museum
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Art of war in an animated story

GAMES

WAR business is good business for the games industry with many of the best selling titles being designed for armchair commandos but two new titles are a little different from the typical *Battlefield* and *Call of Duty* franchises.

Valiant Hearts: The Great War (for most formats) is an animated comic book style side-scrolling adventure, blending puzzles and action, that follows the fate of several characters and a faithful hound during the First World War.

Destinies cross as a German soldier attempts to be reunited with his French wife, his father-in-law swaps life on the farm for the French army and a Belgian nurse does her best to save lives.

Emotion

Beautifully illustrated by Ubisoft's team in Montpellier, this is a compelling game that also teaches players about the 1914-18 conflict and actually becomes quite poignant. Emotion in a video game? I think of *Valiant Hearts* as the gaming equivalent of that moment when the laughter stopped in *Blackadder Goes Forth* as our favourite comic characters went over the top to their collective doom.

Enemy Front stands out from the plethora of first-person shooters set in the Second World War because it chooses theatres of war, such as Poland and Norway, seldom explored by mainstream war games.

It opens with intense action during the Warsaw Uprising when the Polish resistance tried to drive the Nazis out of their capital city by throwing up barricades and using the sewers to launch surprise attacks. You play American

journalist Robert Hawkins, a war correspondent who has abandoned any idea of impartiality as he joins the struggle against Nazi Germany.

Missions require stealth interspersed with gun-blazing action which gives this game its adult rating. Whilst the game play doesn't bring anything particularly new, the superbly realised settings from Poland's CI Games are impressive. If you like *Sniper Elite III*, it's worth checking this out and it is available for all major platforms.

If you prefer a wild flight of fancy, look no further than **One Piece Unlimited World Red**, the sort of mind-boggling adventure that no one does better than the Japanese. From Bandai Namco and based on the popular 'straw hat' manga (comics) created by Eiichiro Oda, this inhabits a bizarre world of monsters, heroes with incredible powers and heroines with chests that would rival Dolly Parton.

There is a Battle Coliseum mode for those who want to head straight to the battles with boss villains, or follow the story narrative as the Straw Hat Pirates, including a cute but deadly ra-

coon named Pato, explore Forgotten Island and take on the Red Count.

One Piece is a weird, dazzling, fast-moving game with vibrant visuals. But for some the lack of an English dub (it's in Japanese with subtitles) may be a distraction and the absence of an online mode will put some potential players off. It is available for PS3, Vita, Wii U and 3DS and has a 12 plus certificate.

Gentlemen (and ladies), start your engines because the biggest and best motor sport games of the year has arrived in **GRID Autosport** (PS3, X360, PC), a slickly realised title from Codemaster that will fast become a favourite with console petrolheads. You can choose from a huge number of cars, hot hatches to F1, street and track circuits at 22 locations around the world, and five racing styles. Then there are a host of options to form Racing Clubs via the RaceNet powered multiplayer, party modes, demolition derby and head to head split-screen races to enhance the online experience.

Reviewed on X360 or PS3
by Leon Burakowski

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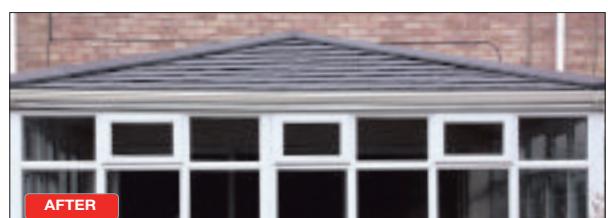
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Some of the girls in national style costumes, for an event during the 1970s



Dancers from the early days of the 50-year school



Some of the girls dancing when they appeared on a TV show called Kidsworld



Walsall Academy of Dance girls with Chris Tarrant on Tiswas



Another view of youngsters from the Walsall Academy of Dance when they appeared on Tiswas

Dancing days recalled from the past 50 years

MEMORY LANE

by Deborah Hardiman

WHEN the founder of a popular ballet school set it up 50 years ago in a garage – she never imagined it would grow into a lasting institution.

Over the decades Walsall Academy of Dance has seen aspiring stars join the ranks of famous ballet troupes, appear on the stage as well as the big screen.

Celebrities who found fame after cutting their teeth at the Butts Street studio in the art of ballet, tap and modern dance include Brownhills supermodel Erin O'Connor and Cannon and Ball's Nativity star Ben Wilby.

Former boss Diane Millard set up the academy in 1964 with just five pupils in a garage at her parents' home in Leamore. "I just wanted to teach dance. I was lucky enough to be trained by Madame Helena Lehmski who taught me not only the classical English ballet method, but also the Italian and the Russian methods.

"I was on a mission and fortunately I got the children who were also dedicated and the parents were fantastic,"

Miss Millard, aged 70, says. Soon her reputation grew and by the 1970s her charges were performing live on children's TV shows Tiswas and Kids World. Over the decades there have been roles in ballets and pantomimes including a stint with Cannon and Ball in Aladdin.

The school is a force to reckon with at competitions and for seven years running in the 1980s and 1990s won the top spots at the British dance championships.

Former pupils have joined the ranks of the Royal Ballet and appeared in musicals including Rock of Ages, Aspects of Love, the Batman World Tour, at the Moulin Rouge in France, or are snapped up by cruise ship operators.

In 1989 Staffordshire's Lisa Waddingham, then just 18, was picked by composer Andrew Lloyd-Webber for the Royal Variety Performance after he spotted her in a touring version of Cats. Meanwhile Streetly's Drew

McOnie in 2010 was a contestant on the TV talent series So You Think You Can Dance? Others have opened their own dance schools. While some are among the second generation of their family to attend. These include Summer Seager-Coles, 13, of Barton under Needwood, and her mother Andrea, who was a pupil there in 1968.

The 180-pupil strong academy is now run by current principal Christa Collard, who was signed up at the school aged two. She took over the reins four years ago. Miss Collard says: "At WAD we pride ourselves on offering high standards of teaching allowing students to gain dance qualifications, alongside gaining performance opportunities and having fun."

This year three aspiring ballerinas Amy York, 19, Jordan Sylvester, 17, and Clare Newton-Sheppard, 18, have been accepted to study at the Royal Academy of Dance, in London. A reunion party is being held on July 19 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, at 8pm. Tickets are available on 01922 613281. Those with old photos, newspaper cuttings, and stories should email info@walsallacademyofdance.co.uk



Founder Diane Millard, with Christa J Collard and dancers



The exterior of the Walsall Academy of Dance's premises, which is situated in Butts Street near the town centre

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Epic ride raises money for Callum

A PENNY Farthing helped five fundraisers collect more than £1,000. The car dealership workers swapped horse power for pedal power to raise money for Callum Loveridge, of Stourbridge, who was left paralysed after a BMX accident in 2010.

Evans Halshaw Ford dealership fleet manager Alex Hillman, workshop controller Wayne Keough and technician Dave Bailey alongside parts advisors Darren Warner and Malcolm Johnson took part in the cycle ride from Wolverhampton to Abergavenny in Wales.

Malcolm did the entire 104 mile journey on an Victorian Penny Farthing bicycle. The others took to butcher bikes as they embraced the challenge in fancy dress. The group faced harsh weather and steep hills in Wales, completing the journey in 13 hours.

MP backs bid to boost repair fund



MP James Morris shows where repairs are needed

A CREAM Tea event at Cradley Heath Baptist Church on Saturday attracted around 150 visitors, including Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, raising money to repairs to the listed building.

The main part of the building will need about £30,000 to make safe the old plasterwork on the ceiling and redecorate the imposing 1904 section of the building.

The members of Cradley Heath Baptist Church have thanked their many friends and supporters for support that means they are more than a quarter of the way towards the target and the cream tea has raised over £360 more.

Robert Higginson, organist and a church stewards, said that he hopes the repaired building can be used for other events.

"During the last 20 years quite a few of the church buildings in Cradley Heath have closed. There are many activities, compatible with this being a church building for which the premises could be hired by other groups. For example, the building could be used for music concerts."

Warning after man injured in explosion

A MAN suffered burns to his face and neck when he added fuel to a bonfire in an industrial drum, resulting in an explosion.

The 26-year-old man from Pedmore added the liquid accelerant because he wanted to get the fire started before rain came at the business unit in Hayes Lane, Lye, last week.

West Midlands Ambulance Service paramedic Steve Hill said that as the man poured it on to the flames the fire exploded, causing minor burns to his face and neck.

He added: "There is no doubt that his injuries could have been very much worse." Mr Hill treated the man before taking him to Russells Hall Hospital for further assessment. He added: "We can but reiterate the dangers of putting an accelerant on a bonfire. Every year we see such cases where people have put petrol or other chemicals on fires with the same result."

President is key to deal that will help fraudster's victims

A FRAUDSTER who duped property owners out of more than £150,000 has been given one final chance to pay back his victims but it depends on a deal being approved by Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan.

Mark Ware, aged 50, targeted homeowners, including in Hagley, as part of his fraud which involved a total of £157,995. Customers complained to Central England Trading Standards after handing over money for building projects that were not completed.

Having initially denied two counts of fraudulent trading and three counts of VAT fraud, Ware admitted the offences after a trial got under way in April.

Birmingham Crown Court was told last month that Ware was negotiating a multi-million pound contract to be signed by President of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan.

Last week Judge Mary Stacey delayed sentencing Ware, of Newick Avenue, Sutton Coldfield, after being told he was still to receive cash from the contract. A previous hearing was told that Ware had clinched a deal with the Nigerian

Government worth £335 million to supply solar panels. Ware could earn £2m.

Mr Martin Butterworth, defending, said despite a contract being signed by an 'intermediary company', the first stage of payment had not been received. He said: "I am seeking further opportunity for Mr Ware to make payment to those who have lost by being given a further opportunity to receive the initial payment. The alternative will be he will go into custody, lose his job, the injured parties will not get their money."

Judge Stacey adjourned sentencing to September 2.

Bring along a scarecrow

HEROES and villains of the screen will be the theme of Belbroughton's 18th scarecrow festival this autumn.

Preparations are already under way for the event at the village near Stourbridge on September 27 and 28. Residents make scarecrows decorated to reflect a theme.

Festival chairman Ian Pemberton said £10,000 had been set aside for entertainment at this year's festival, which will include a classic car rally and motorcycle stunt riding display.

Around 100 scarecrows were on display last year, attracting 16,000 visitors and raising £36,000 for good causes.

For the first time, people from outside the village are being invited to bring along their own scarecrows to be judged too.

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Wheel right by the Gallagher brothers

MANCHESTER indie rock band Twisted Wheel will be joined by three local acts on stage in Wolverhampton next month.

The band, who scored minor success with single Lucy The Castle in 2009, will be supported by Two & Eights, The Rimes and The Assist at their gig at The Slade Rooms on August 30.

In their five years since their debut album, which gained them Oasis brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher as fans, Twisted Wheel have received critical acclaim and packed out gigs across the country.

Their second album, Do It Again, was released in 2012.

Tickets cost £9.90 from Midlands Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or visit www.wolvscivic.co.uk.

Scot rockers at the Slade Rooms

SCOTTISH rock band Twilight Sad will perform at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton tomorrow night.

The trio from Kilsyth have released three albums, the most recent was No One Can Ever Know in 2012.

Tickets are priced £12.10 available from Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvscivic.co.uk

Meanwhile, all-female band The Amorettes play the Broad Street venue tonight (£5.50) and Black Country hard rock band Liberty Lies, whose debut album is due soon, play the venue next Friday.

Dudley's EoF boys make bid for stardom with a nationwide tour

It's creepy and kooky family fun

THEY'RE creepy and they're kooky — they're The Addams Family and they've taken up residence in Brierley Hill.

Fans will be able to see Morticia, Gomez and co when the younger members of Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company stage the Broadway musical version of the hit American horror comedy The Addams Family.

A cast of 22 aged 10 to 21 will perform the hit show at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street from tonight to Saturday.

Co-ordinator Jo Gresswell said: "The show is a little different from the film because Wednesday is all grown up and had a boyfriend but it still provides all of the same comedy.

"We are delighted because we are the first to premiere it in the Midlands."

Tickets are £8 available on 0845 658 8095.



The young cast of The Addams Family get ready for some explosive fun at Brierley Hill

THEY tasted fame as a support act for supergroup McBusted and now Dudley-based rock band EoF are stepping out on their own with their first nationwide headline tour.

EoF's 13-date Unleashed tour which will kick off this November and will see the Black Country boys having a West Midlands homecoming gig at The Institute in Digbeth, Birmingham, on November 15.

Having impressed more than 380,000 fans while supporting pop stars McBusted (the McFly-Busted supergroup) on a 32-date arena tour this year, including several concerts at Birmingham LG Arena, the group is now stepping out of the support band shadows.

Momentum

The group was formed three years ago and is made up of lead vocalist Tom Harris, 17, from Netherton, Dan Bremmer, 19, from Gornal, Luke Bradley, 18, also from Gornal, and drummer Nicky Waters, 25 who is Northumbrian.

Lead singer Tom Harris: "Our own tour is something we have always wanted to do and now is the perfect time because we want to keep the momentum created by the McBusted tour."

The former Hillcrest Community College student added: "It was surreal to play an arena tour so early in our career.

"We loved the whole tour but it was sentimental to



EoF in action at the LG Arena

play at Birmingham's LG Arena, giving all our local fans the chance to see us doing the best thing we have ever done."

The singer is spending summer at the family home in Church Road.

He said: "I am still coming down from the tour but I missed my mum's cooking.

"By November we'll have loads of new material, plus all the songs we played on the McBusted tour, so will be putting on a much bigger show."

Go underground for Victorian chills

FANS of gothic horror can look forward to a treat when Dudley Canal Trust's popular Singing Cavern hosts an evening of chills this weekend.

Local theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar celebrate great ghost and horror stories from the Victorian and Edwardian eras in their Morbid Curiosities event, including original stories and adaptations of classics by Poe, Stoker and Conan Doyle.

The evening starts at 7pm on Saturday and tickets are £10.80, which includes a boat trip in — and out — of the cavern in one of Dudley Canal Trust's special electric boats.

Tickets are available from the Dudley Canal Trust trips offices or on 0121 557 6265.

Cavern residents support movie star

THE resident band at Liverpool's legendary Cavern Club have been named as the support act for action movie star Steven Seagal's Black Country blues shows.

Xander and the Peace Pilgrims, who play at the Matthew Street venue where The Beatles started, will support the guitar-playing film legend at his shows at The Robin 2 in Bilton on Monday and Tuesday.

Tickets cost £27.50 in advance or £30 on the door.

For more information, visit www.therobin.co.uk website or call the Mount Pleasant venue on 01902 401211.

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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Golf: The Open Championship. Live coverage from Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake. **5.25** Formula 1: German Grand Prix – Qualifying. Suzi Perry presents action from the battle for pole position in the 10th round of the season at the Hockenheimring. The German Grand Prix alternates hosting duties each year with the Nürburgring, and was last held here in 2012, when Fernando Alonso claimed the position at the front of the starting grid, and went on to win the race. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

6.40 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Jason Manford hosts the game show, with singer Pixie Lott, presenter Helen Skelton, comedian and actor Terry Alderton and Citizen Khan star Adil Ray taking part. Last in the series.

7.40 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants answer two-part questions for the chance to play for the money in the safe, with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds. This week's contestants are two best friends, a mother and son and a couple who claim to be the perfect pairing, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Kate Garraway.

8.30 Live at Edinburgh Castle. Alex Jones presents this concert to celebrate the Commonwealth Games, featuring Kaiser Chiefs, Smokey Robinson, Culture Club, Paloma Faith, Katherine Jenkins and OneRepublic.

10.30 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Shanghai Knights. (2003) Chinese sheriff Wong Wang and reformed bandit Roy O'Bannon head for Victorian London on the trail of a murderer. Their investigation leads them to a nefarious Englishman plotting to kill the royal family – but fortunately Chon's talented sister comes to their aid. Martial arts comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Aidan Gillen and Fann Wong.

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.40 BBC News. **12.45** Weather. **12.55** Film: Keeping Up with the Steins. (2006) **2.00** This Is BBC Two. **12.40** BBC News.

CHOICE



Kerrie Hayes

The Mill
(Channel 4, 8pm)

The catchphrase 'trouble at t'mill' may have been coined back in 1967 on the early John Thaw series *Inheritance*, but it might as well have been created purely for this show, which began last year – for not only is it centred around a mill, but there's also frequently trouble at it. As the 19th-century period drama returns for a second run, that trouble takes the form of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which has led to desperate economic migrants from the South arriving at Quarry Bank in search of jobs. The workers in Styal village are concerned that the arrival of these impoverished families will drive down everyone's wages, and the impact of the new legislation hits home for apprentice Esther.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. (R) 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Fast Tales. **11.30** Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces further live coverage of the fourth and final day at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, where the 143rd staging of the Major concludes. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond and Frank Nobilo, and reports by Dan Walker. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

7.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.20 Countryfile. The team helps John Craven mark 25 years on the show with items close to his heart, touching on organic farming, endangered species and the joy of driving through the countryside.

8.10 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team pay the second of two visits to Wentworth Woodhouse, stately home near Rotherham in South Yorkshire. Items include a special medal awarded for kindness to pit ponies, a valuable painted Georgian tea tray, a bible that belonged to Arthur Wharton – one of the first black professional footballers – and a rare Fabergé egg, which proves to be a lucky gift.

9.10 Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth. A visit to natural beauty spots across the Commonwealth, including Milford Sound in New Zealand, Africa's Namib desert, Victoria Falls in Zambia and Fingal's Cave in Scotland.

10.10 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.35 Murdered by My Boyfriend. Drama about a teenage girl's romance with an older man who begins to dominate every aspect of her life. Georgina Campbell and Royce Pierreson star. Previously shown on BBC3.

11.35 Film: *The Greatest Game Ever Played.* (2005) A determined American working-class golfer overcomes social prejudice and cynicism to compete in the 1913 US Open. Fact-based drama, starring Shia LaBeouf and Stephen Dillane.

12.35 Sign Zone: *Countryfile.* (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This is BBC Two.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** *A Walk in the Sun.* (1945) **8.30** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.30** *Countryfile.* (R) **10.30** Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces further live coverage of the fourth and final day at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, where the 143rd staging of the Major concludes. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Phil Parkin, Maureen Madill, Scott Drummond and Frank Nobilo, and reports by Dan Walker. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

7.00 Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights. Suzi Perry presents action from the 10th round of the season, which was staged at the Hockenheimring for the first time since 2012. Fernando Alonso was the victor on that occasion, but seems unlikely to change again given the dominance of Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg this season. Hamilton has won this race twice, once on this track and once at the Nürburgring. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard.

8.30 Dragons' Den. New series. Evan Davis presents the return of the business ideas contest, with Duncan Bannatyne having announced that this series will be his last. He is joined once again by Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney to evaluate a selection of pitches, including a toe-tapping routine that sees the Dragons up on their feet. Plus, Deborah goes for a slightly unconventional joyride and Peter thinks outside the frame with an offer the Den has never seen before. Will anyone be able to secure that all-important investment from the panelists?

9.30 The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. John Sergeant examines the history of the Avro Lancaster bomber and examines how it was at the heart of nearly every vital British aeronautical mission of the Second World War.

10.30 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Milton Jones, Russell Kane and Zoe Lyons join regular panelists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons. (R)

11.00 Film: *The Quiet American.* (2002) A British journalist in 1950s Vietnam befriends an American aid worker, but suspects his new acquaintance is not all he appears to be. Drama, with Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser.

12.35 The Store. **2.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **3.10** Motorsport UK. **4.00** ITV Nightsgreen. **4.15** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: *Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.* **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** *Canimals.* (R) **7.00** *Canimals.* (R) **7.05** *Sooty.* (R) **7.20** *Digimon Fusion.* (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** *Bedtime Stories.* (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** *Murder, She Wrote.* (R) **11.20** *ITV News: Weather.* **11.30** *Love Your Garden.* (R) **12.30** *Long Lost Family.* (R) **1.35** *Film:* *Colombo: Any Old Port in a Storm.* (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Donald Pleasence. **3.35** *Midsomer Murders.* (R) **5.30** *Tipping Point.* (R)

6.30 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R)

8.00 Foyle's War. It's 1946 and although one war has ended, another is looming as the Iron Curtain falls across Europe. Foyle arrives home from America, where he is wanted in connection with a suspicious suicide, but MI5 offers him a way out. The agency suspects Britain's atomic research programme has been infiltrated and wants to recruit him to investigate a Soviet spy ring that could be at work in the heart of London. Detective drama, starring Michael Kitchen, with Honeysuckle Weeks, Ellie Haddington and Dylan Charles. (R)

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Testing Britain's Worst Drivers: *Crash Course.* Two of the nation's worst motorists come face to face with the consequences of their dangerous driving in a crash-test experiment. Jamie Theakston narrates. (R)

11.15 The Cube. *Bubbly* Teresa from Newcastle and family man Alan try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. (R)

12.10 The Store. **2.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **3.10** Motorsport UK. **4.00** ITV Nightsgreen. **4.15** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** *The Hoobs.* (R) **6.50** *World Superbike Championship.* **7.30** *British GT Championship.* **7.55** *Everybody Loves Raymond.* (R) **8.25** *Everybody Loves Raymond.* (R) **8.55** *Frasier.* (R) **9.30** *Chloe's Closet.* (R) **10.00** *Sunday Brunch.* (R) **10.25** *Murder, She Wrote.* (R) **11.30** *ITV News: Weather.* **11.30** *Love Your Garden.* (R) **12.30** *Long Lost Family.* (R) **1.35** *Film:* *Colombo: Any Old Port in a Storm.* (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Donald Pleasence. **3.35** *Midsomer Murders.* (R) **5.30** *Tipping Point.* (R)

8.00 The Mill. New series. Return of the drama following the lives of factory staff in 19th-century England. Just four years have passed, but now the effects of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 are taking hold, and desperate economic migrants from the South are starting to turn up at Quarry Bank Mill in search of jobs. The workers in Styal village are concerned that the arrival of these impoverished families will drive down everyone's wages, and the impact of the new legislation hits home for apprentice Esther, who discovers the beggar in the mill yard is her own sister, Martha.

9.00 Child in a Monkey. There are more than 20,000 people in America registered as private primate owners and this documentary tells the stories of a few of those who have integrated the animals into their families and are treating them like children. Sean has just adopted an abused monkey and worries that his pregnant wife and two children may be under threat from the animal's wilder instincts.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks and bedroom chit-chat.

10.00 Film: *The Book of Eli.* (2010) A drifter in post-apocalyptic America battles a despot for control of a book believed to hold the key to mankind's future. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman.

12.15 Gangs & Guns: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** *SuperCasino.* **3.10** *Super Skyscrapers: Shanghai Tower.* (R) **4.00** *Great Scientists.* (R) **4.25** *Make It Big.* (R) **4.50** *The Funky Valley Show.* (R) **5.00** *Angels of Jarm.* (R) **5.10** *Roary the Racing Car.* (R) **5.20** *Angels of Jarm.* (R) **5.30** *The Funky Valley Show.* (R) **5.40** *Roary the Racing Car.* (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! *Peppa Pig.* **6.05** *Roary the Racing Car.* (R) **6.15** *Abby's Flying Fairy School.* (R) **6.25** *Bubble Guppies.* (R) **6.35** *The Mr Men Show.* (R) **6.50** *Chloe's Closet.* (R) **7.00** *Milkshake!* (R) **7.10** *Bananas in Pyjamas.* (R) **7.25** *Make Way for Noddy.* (R) **7.40** *City of Friends.* (R) **7.50** *Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.* (R) **7.55** *Little Princess.* (R) **8.05** *The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.* (R) **8.20** *Milkshake!* *Bop Box.* (R) **8.25** *Angelia Ballerina.* (R) **8.45** *Rupert Bear.* (R) **9.00** *Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.* (R) **9.15** *Jelly Jamm.* (R) **9.30** *LazyTown.* (R) **10.00** *Power Rangers Megaforce.* (R) **10.35** *Power Rangers Megaforce.* (R) **11.05** *Meerkat Man.* (R) **11.30** *Access.* (R) **11.35** *Big Brother.* (R) **12.35** *Film:* *Click.* (2006) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler. **2.40** *Film:* *Lost in Space.* (1998) Sci-fi adventure, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman. **5.10** *Film:* *Big Momma's House.* (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **7.00** *Cricket on 5.* England v India. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth day of the Second Test at Lord's, as the five-match series continued.

7.55 News Weekend. **8.00** *My Child is a Monkey.* There are more than 20,000 people in America registered as private primate owners and this documentary tells the stories of a few of those who have integrated the animals into their families and are treating them like children. Sean has just adopted an abused monkey and worries that his pregnant wife and two children may be under threat from the animal's wilder instincts.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks and bedroom chit-chat.

10.00 Film: *The Book of Eli.* (2010) A drifter in post-apocalyptic America battles a despot for control of a book believed to hold the key to mankind's future. Action adventure, with Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman.

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DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 *Great Movie Mistakes* **7.15** *Film:* *Shanghai Noon* (2000) **9.00** *Family Guy* **10.45** *People Just Do Nothing* **11.15** *Family Guy* **1.05** *People Just Do Nothing* **1.35** *Slum Survivors* **2.30** *Stacey Dooley in the USA: Kids in the Crossfire* **3.30** *People Just Do Nothing* **4.00** *Close*

BBC Four

7.00 *Nannie's Lost Poet: The Secret Lives and Loves of CS Lewis* **8.00** *Scotland's Art Revolution: The Maverick Generation* **9.00** *Rich Hall's California Stars* **10.30** *Born Lippy: Mark Lawson takes to Jo Brand* **11.30** *The Joy of the Guitar Riff* **12.30** *Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC* **1.30** *Rich Hall's California Stars* **3.00** *Scotland's Art Revolution: The Maverick Generation* **4.00** *Close*

ITV2

12.40 *America's Got Talent* **3.20** *The Very Best of You've Been Framed* **4.30** *Film:* *Mr Bean's Holiday* (2007) **6.15** *Film:* *Cats & Dogs* (2001) **8.00** *Film:* *Evan Almighty* (2007) **10.00** *Film:* *The Only Way Is Essex* **10.50** *Film:* *American Pie* (1999) **12.45** *TV OD 1.10* **2.45** *Film:* *Fake Reaction* **1.50** *You've Been Framed: A-Z* **2.45** *Teleshopping* **5.45** *ITV Nightsgreen*

ITV3

11.15 *A Touch of Frost* **1.30** *Inspector Morse* **3.45** *Film:* *Houseitter* (1992) **5.15** *Inspector Morse* **8.00** *Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs* **9.00** *Film:* *The Security Men* **10.00** *Film:* *The Portrait of a Lady* (1996) **12.35** *William and Mary* **1.30** *Film:* *Jaws 3* (1983) **11.00** *Film:* *Green Street* (2005) **2.10** *Film:* *Tour de France Highlights* **2.20** *Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club* **2.50** *TV4 Nightsgreen* **3.00** *The Store 5.30* *Teleshopping*

E4

12.30 *How I Met Your Mother* **2.30** *Marvel's Agents of SHIELD* **3.30** *The Mindy Project* **4.00** *New Girl* **4.30** *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* **5.00** *The 100* **6.00** *Rude(ish)* **7.00** *The Big Bang Theory* **8.00** *Film:* *The Golden Compass* (2007) **10.10** *The Big Bang Theory* **11.10** *Rude Tube* **12.10** *Ben Earl: Trick Artist* **1.15** *Rules of Engagement* **2.15** *The Cleveland Show* **3.20** *Hollywoods*

Film4

11.00 *The Virgin Queen* (1955) **1.00** *Mirror Mirror* (2012) **3.05** *The Last Mimzy* (2007) **4.55** *17 Again* (2009) **6.50** *Definitely, Maybe* (2008) **9.00** *Robin Hood* (2010) **11.40** *Lucky Number Slevin* (2006) **1.50** *The Scouting Book for Boys* (2009) **3.45** *Close*

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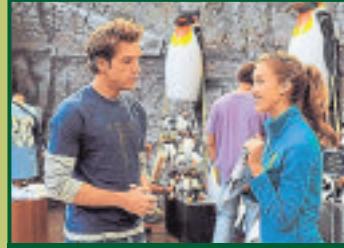
Monday

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, BBC2, 1.45pm
 A bumbling dreamer is treated with disdain by everyone he knows. He retreats into a fantasy world to escape grim reality, until an encounter with a mysterious woman sweeps him up into a real-life adventure and gives him the courage to change his life for the better. Comedy based on James Thurber's short story, starring Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo, Boris Karloff, Fay Bainter, Ann Rutherford, Thurston Hall, Gordon Jones and Florence Bates. (1947)

Tuesday

Yellowstone Kelly, BBC2, 2pm

A fur trapper lives in peace with the Sioux tribe near his hunting ground. However, the harmony is threatened by the arrival of a military force out to avenge the defeat at the Little Big Horn, as well as his own feelings for a woman they are holding captive. Western, starring Clint Walker, Edward Byrnes, John Russell, Ray Danton and Claude Akins. (1959)



Good Luck Chuck, Friday, Channel 4, 11.55pm

Wednesday

Jane Doe: Eye of the Beholder, Channel 5, 3.20pm
 A series of robberies at an art gallery prompts former government agent Cathy Davis to investigate. However, the case is complicated when her sidekick Frank falls for the insurance investigator she is convinced is the culprit. Mystery, directed by and starring Lea Thompson. With Jessie Schram and Zack Shada. (2007)

Thursday

Fatal Acquittal, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman is put on trial for murdering her husband, but is found not guilty. However, she discovers her neighbours, the media and even her own daughter all still believe she is the killer, so takes matters into her own hands by trying to unmask the real culprit. Thriller, starring Joely Fisher, and Patrick Muldoon. (2014)

Friday

Good Luck Chuck, Channel 4, 11.55pm

A single man is cursed, so that anyone he sleeps with will find true love with someone else soon afterwards. The situation has its perks in the form of a stream of women seeking him out for one-night stands, but when he meets the girl of his dreams, he resolves to break the spell. Comedy, with Dane Cook, Jessica Alba and Dan Fogler. (2007)

Curtain-raiser promises to be spectacular

The build-up to the Commonwealth Games has been almost as exhausting as taking part.

For months we've been told it's on its way and that it's going to be fantastic – well, at long last, it's time for Glasgow to put its money where its mouth is and prove that anything London can do, it can at least match.

Following the success of the Olympics in 2012, the city certainly has a lot to live up to, but Charlotte Balding, who will be on presenting duties for the BBC throughout the event, thinks Glasgow will do Scotland proud.

"It's amazing how much people are still talking about London 2012 and when they start talking about it they smile," says Balding. "It makes them feel warm inside and I think it showed the best of us as a country."

"I know that Glasgow will do the same and the Scottish welcome will be warm and generous and enthusiastic. I just think it is a very good reflection of our ability to organise major events and stage them with humour and a great appreciation

of entertainment value, and to do so efficiently and always with the athlete in mind."

She will present coverage of the opening ceremony at Celtic Park alongside Gary Lineker and Hazel Irvine; Irvine also provides the commentary with Huw Edwards.

The Queen's Baton Relay ends here, and 3,000 volunteers take part in what promises to be a spectacular show.

Competitors from 71 nations enter the arena in the Parade of Athletes before the Queen herself officially declares the Games open.

Will she arrive by helicopter with James Bond, as she did during the Olympics? Well, we'll have to wait and see!

Although most of the action takes place in Glasgow, the diving is being held in Edinburgh, which has hosted the Games twice in the past.

One person hoping to make a big splash there this time is Tom Daley. "He'll be defending his title," explains Balding. "It'll be really interesting for Tom. There's been a lot written about

him, people questioning his motivation, his fitness, can he step up there? He's up against Matt Mitcham of Australia, who's his strongest competitor."

Balding will mostly be hanging out at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow, and will be keeping her eye on several swimmers, including Cied le Clos, the young South African whose father Bern made such an impact on viewers thanks to his emotional interview about his on during the 2012 Olympics.

"But there are some really strong swimmers from the UK, in particular from Scotland," claims Balding. "I hope Hannah Miley defends her medley title and then there's Michael Jamieson, who got the best result of all the swimmers at the Olympics with a silver medal. He's in there with a really good chance of getting Scotland's first gold in the pool."

Whatever happens, we're looking forward to 11 days of top-class competition, and hope a few more star performers become household names by the time the closing ceremony begins.



Commonwealth Games: Opening Ceremony, Wednesday, BBC1, 8.00pm

BEST OF THE REST

Monday

Food Unwrapped
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Kate Quilton heads to Calabria, southern Italy, to find out how bitter-tasting liquorice roots are transformed into sweet treats. Jimmy Doherty discovers that some popular varieties of mushroom are not grown in woodland or even outdoors, while Matt Tebbutt uncovers the nasty bacteria potentially lurking in bean sprouts. He learns that consuming his favourite East Asian vegetable raw could be as risky as eating some oysters, so heads to a factory in Northern Ireland to find out how they can be sold as 'ready to eat'.

Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm

Sara Price-Parker, 44, decided to trace her birth mother Denise after the death of her adoptive mum, but her 25-year search ended in disappointment when she discovered her parent had emigrated to Jamaica in the 1970s. Sara is now turning to Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell as her last hope to establish contact. Pauline Wood, 77, always longed for a sibling to play with while growing up as an adopted only child. At the age of 28, she learned her birth parents later got married and had a son, but the quest to find her brother has gone on for decades to no avail.

Tuesday

Hive Alive

BBC2, 8pm

Chris Packham and Martha Kearney conclude their quest with Professor Adam Hart to explore the remarkable secrets of the lives and habits of bees. They discover how many of the tagged insects have survived over the frenetic midsummer week of nectar and pollen gathering and find out if they have collected enough food at this critical time to see them through the winter. They also investigate the deadly mating ritual of a queen and look at how bees can aid medical research, as well as how people can help them in return.

Wednesday**All Star Mr & Mrs**

ITV, 8pm

Phillip Schofield is joined by Loose Women anchor Kaye Adams and her husband Ian, actress Sue Holderness (Only Fools and Horses) and husband Mark, and former Strictly Come Dancing professional Vincent Simone with his fiancee Susan. The contestants find out how much they really know about their other halves, and

the couple who give the most correct answers to a series of questions receive the chance to win £30,000 for their chosen charity. However, no one walks away empty-handed – the losing pairs each receive £5,000 for a good cause.

Thursday

Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year

Channel 4, 8pm



Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year, Thursday, Channel 4, 8pm

New series. George Clarke presides over the 2014 Shed of the Year competition. Accompanied by craftsman Will Hardie, designer Max McMurdo and architect Laura Jane Clark, he visits a range of extraordinary and eccentric builds vying for the title across Britain, from an intricate shell grotto created inside a Second World War bunker, to a 1970s amusement arcade. In the first edition, focusing on the Unique and Eco categories, he explores a giant replica of a teapot, a Titanic museum, a cinema room, a shed made out of 5,000 wine bottles, and an egg-shaped studio and more.

Diamond Geezers
ITV, 9pm

Hatton Garden lies in Holborn, London, and has been the centre of London's jewellery trade since medieval times. The area houses numerous businesses, from skilled jewellery-makers to millionaire wheelie-dealers. This bling-tastic documentary focuses on some of the biggest characters who call the place home, including Michael Lynton, who has been creating bespoke pieces for more than 40 years. Others making their mark during the programme are Steve, a sole trader who makes a living from buying and selling gold and travels the country in search of his next big item.

On the Yorkshire Buses
Channel 5, 8pm

A new school term starts and every bus in East Yorkshire Motor Services' fleet is needed, but a series of breakdowns means the engineers have their work cut out. Roadworks in Hull cause further delays and when passengers begin to complain, boss Peter Shipp calls a crisis meeting with his senior staff. Meanwhile, Scarborough drivers James and Steve go head to head in a sponsored eating challenge to raise money for a local hospice, tackling 12 burgers and a mound of fries washed down with milkshakes in just 40 minutes.

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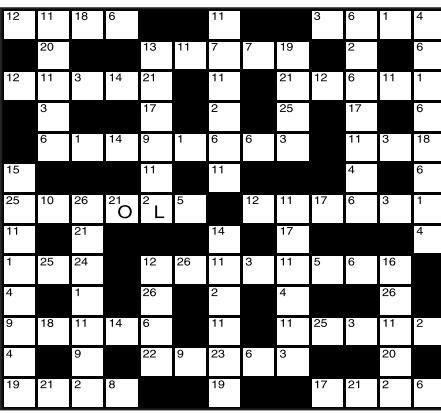
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1110	1111	1112	1113	11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Detached bungalow is extended and improved



A UNIQUE detached bungalow in Portland Crescent, Pedmore, has been extended and improved.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £385,000. It has a large entrance hall, a sitting room with feature fireplace, dining room with part wall panelling, breakfast kitchen with wood-effect units, a utility with plumbing and space for appliances, three excellent double bedrooms (master with luxury en suite), an impressive four piece main white bathroom in a traditional style, a broad and attractive frontage, block-paved driveway with plenty of parking space, a double garage with a roller door on a remote control, front and very private rear gardens with the rear having a patio/terrace ideal for outside entertaining, and mature conifer trees.

For details contact Taylors Estate Agents on 01384 395555 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk website.



Spacious family home with plenty of parking



A FIVE bedroome detached house with three reception rooms in Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, has a generous garden and parking. It is for sale through Connells at £275,000 and comprises a porch, lounge, a dining room with patio doors to the rear, laminate flooring and an archway to the kitchen.

There is also a cloakroom and the bathroom has a re-fitted suite including a P-shaped bath with shower over and heated towel rail.

The rear garden has a decked patio. There is a utility, garage, storage area and gated driveway parking for several vehicles. Contact estate agent Connells on 0121 5522671 or visit the www.connells.co.uk website.



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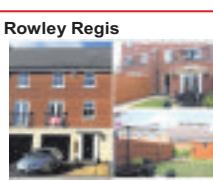
Bournes Hill
* Two Bedroom House
* Popular Residential Location
* Through Living Room
* In Need Of Some Improvement
* NO CHAIN

£124,950



Greenhill Road
* Extended semi detached
* Four bedrooms (one ensuite)
* Extensive rear garden
* Views
* Dining kitchen
* Living room
* Must be viewed
* NO CHAIN * EPC = D

Offers in the region of £234,950



Glaslyn Avenue
* Mid terraced house
* Spacious & tastefully presented
* 3 bedrooms
* 2 shower rooms & bathroom
* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room with balcony
* L Shaped lounge/dining area
* Utility, enclosed gardens, gas boiler heating radiators * Fitted carpets. A must view property * EPC = C

£174,950



Shenstone Valley Road
* Semi Detached On Corner Plot
* Three Bedrooms
* Through Living Room
* Kitchen/Breakfast Room
* Downstairs W.C
* NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC=F

Offers in the region of £169,950



Woodbury Road
* Detached Bungalow
* Two Bedrooms
* Shower Room
* Garage
* Rear and Side Garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
EPC = E

£159,950



Gower Road
* Well proportioned semi-detached house
* Three double bedrooms
* Bathroom with both bath & shower
* Separate lounge & dining room
* Extended kitchen/breakfast room
* Garage * Wide covered passage way
* Lovely gardens * Double glazed windows * Gas boiler heating radiators
* Internal inspection recommended
EPC=bbc
Offers in the region of £275,000



Welbeck Close
* A quality detached house backing onto Leasowes Park and Conservation Area * Four bedrooms * Ensuite shower room and bathroom * Study * Fitted kitchen/breakfast room and utility room * Family room * Lounge * Superb conservatory * Dining room * Fitted cloakroom * Double garage * Good-sized gardens * Potential for extension (subject to planning permission) EPC=D
Offers in the region of £385,000



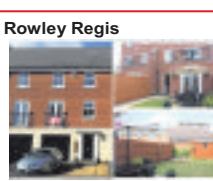
Oldbury
* Link detached bungalow
* Two bedrooms
* Two parking spaces
* L Shaped lounge/dining area * Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances * Luxury bathroom with shower cubicle * Fitted Carpets * EPC = C

£179,950



Bartley Green
* A detached house with three bedrooms * Potential for some general improvement
* Popular residential locality
* Garage and off road parking
* Bathroom and en-suite shower room
* Lounge and separate dining room
* Kitchen/utility area
* Enclosed gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators EPC = D

Offers in the region of £174,950



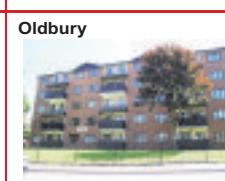
Oldbury
* Traditional semi detached house * Through room forming Lounge and Dining area
* Kitchen/Breakfast room
* Three bedrooms
* Well appointed bathroom
* Large garage
* Double glazed windows, gas boiler heating radiators
EPC = E

Offers in the region of £114,950



Rowley Regis
* Semi detached house
* Two bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen/potential breakfast room
* First floor bathroom
* Rear garden
* No Upward chain
EPC = E

Offers in the region of £114,950



Oldbury
* Traditional style semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen/potential breakfast room
* Side garage* Good sized gardens need some improvement but full of potential
* Gas boiler heating radiators
EPC = bcc
£175,000



Dudley
* SUPERB VALUE FOR MONEY*
Flat 5 Festival Court
St. Johns Street
* 2 bedroom ground floor flat
* Kitchen with essential appliances
* Spacious living room with 'Juliet' balconies * Bathroom with shower
* Recently neutrally redecorated
* Blinds/curtains & neutral carpets
* Gas CH * DWG * Electric heating EPC=C
Monthly rent of £420+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



Tipton
* Modern two bedroom Apartment
* Stylish Kitchen with some appliances
* Lounge with electric fire & 'Juliet' balconies * Bathroom with shower
* Recently neutrally redecorated
* Blinds/curtains & neutral carpets
* Gas CH * DWG * EPC=C
Monthly rent of £450+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

OPEN
TO
VIEW
SAT
19th
JULY
2-4pm

Bartley Woods
* A detached house with three bedrooms * Potential for some general improvement
* Popular residential locality
* Garage and off road parking
* Bathroom and en-suite shower room
* Lounge and separate dining room
* Kitchen/utility area
* Enclosed gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators EPC = D
Offers in the region of £205,000

Jarvis Crescent
* Traditional semi detached house * Through room forming Lounge and Dining area
* Kitchen/Breakfast room
* Three bedrooms
* Well appointed bathroom
* Large garage
* Double glazed windows, gas boiler heating radiators
EPC = E
Offers in the region of £174,950

Duke Street
* Semi detached house
* Two bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* First floor bathroom
* Rear garden
* No Upward chain
EPC = E
Offers in the region of £114,950

Moat Road
* Traditional style semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen/potential breakfast room
* Side garage* Good sized gardens need some improvement but full of potential
* Gas boiler heating radiators
EPC = bcc
£175,000

Flat 5 Festival Court
St. Johns Street
* 2 bedroom ground floor flat
* Kitchen with essential appliances
* Spacious living room with 'Juliet' balconies * Bathroom with shower
* Recently neutrally redecorated
* Blinds/curtains & neutral carpets
* Gas CH * DWG * Electric heating EPC=C
Monthly rent of £420+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

48 Harper Grove
* Modern two bedroom Apartment
* Stylish Kitchen with some appliances
* Lounge with electric fire & 'Juliet' balconies * Bathroom with shower
* Recently neutrally redecorated
* Blinds/curtains & neutral carpets
* Gas CH * DWG * EPC=C
Monthly rent of £450+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



NEW

HALESOWEN, Cherry Orchard Avenue £775 ppc - Fees Located close to central Halesowen, and close to shops and transport links. This large unfurnished semi detached house which is at the head of a cul-de-sac features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, 4 good size bedrooms, large bathroom with separate shower, garage and driveway parking, gardens and lovely views from bedroom 2. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue £675 ppc - Fees Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 ppc - Fees This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Crombie Road £595 ppc - Fees Deceptively large house with modern decoration. An unfurnished 3 bedroom semi detached house featuring a light and airy lounge, fitted kitchen with a dining area, 2 double bedrooms and 1 large single bedroom, white bathroom suite and 'p' shaped bath, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Victoria Road £575 ppc - Fees An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops in Blackheath, local buses, and not far from the M5 J2. This house features 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, huge dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive £575 ppc - Fees Located on the Homer Hill Estate. Total cost of a full re-decoration and new carpets! A semi-detached home briefly featuring 1 double bedroom and 2 single bedrooms, spacious lounge, large kitchen with dining area, family bathroom with telephone shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, off road parking, unfurnished. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street West £575 ppc - Fees A stunning furnished to suit 2 double bedroom cottage style mid terrace property in close proximity to Halesowen town centre, 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen/dining area with appliances, bathroom with shower, private rear garden. On road parking. Not to be missed! EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Client View £550 ppc - Fees A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. Features 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchens, 2 reception rooms. Fitted to an excellent standard. This house features a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, house bathroom with shower. EPC: C



MERRY HILL, Columbus Avenue £550 ppc - Fees Ideal for shopping. Centrally located on the Merry Hill Shopping Centre and train station. A modern 2nd floor apartment with 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, double glazing, double aspect lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, en-suite to master bedroom, large loft area, allocated parking (parking permit required). EPC: C



NEW

KIDDERMINSTER, Patin House £550 ppc - Fees A superb 1 bed, 1st floor, apartment set in a converted Victorian house and comprising of hall, lounge, large fitted kitchen with appliances, double bedroom, family bathroom, central heating, double glazing, allocated parking and communal gardens. Available immediately. EPC: D



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf £525 ppc - Fees A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Cross Street £495 ppc - Fees Beautifully presented and very close to Halesowen. This lovely ground floor maisonette features 1 double bedroom and a single bedroom, dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower, private rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: E



NEW

HALESOWEN, Howley Grange Road £475 ppc - Fees Part furnished 1st floor flat available in this popular location, gas central heating, Living room, fitted kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, allocated parking. Gas (in winter months) and water rates included in the rental. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street £475 ppc - Fees Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links this is an unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



DUDLEY, Gammidge Street £450 ppc - Fees Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property has been refurbished with new carpets upstairs, new Worcester combi boiler and integrated oven. This home features an entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with shower, rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: F



NEW

HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £450 ppc - Fees An immaculately presented ground floor 1 bedroom flat, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring an open plan living room/modern fitted kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, bathroom with shower over bath, allocated parking space, unfurnished. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road £450 ppc - Fees Not to be missed is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own garden this is a bright and airy property. Inside this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue £425 ppc - Fees An unfurnished ground floor flat in a well sought after location of Halesowen. Ideal for motorway access and walking into town. Featuring a spacious living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road £400 ppc - Fees This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D



KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road £350 ppc - Fees A fully re-furnished 1st floor studio apartment comprising of a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, white bathroom suite with shower. Electric central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC

PROPERTY

Detached home has views of golf course



A MODERN detached home with four bedrooms in Barnetts Lane, Kidderminster, has views over a golf course.

It has a double garage, a reception hall almost 22ft in length and cloakroom. There is a room ideal as a gym or office. The living room has stone feature fire place with marble hearth. The breakfast kitchen has a range of cabinets, integrated fridge, freezer and dishwasher plus cooker. There are double doors to the garden and double doors to dining room. Also there is a study plus utility.

It is for sale through Allan Morris & Co at £429,950. Call 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Dormer bungalow ideal for a growing family



A FIVE-BEDROOMED detached dormer bungalow in Lodge Road, Walsall, is ideal for a growing family.

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £349,950. With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, reception hall, rear lounge, rear sun lounge/conservatory, dining area, a breakfast kitchen with a laundry room off, five bedrooms, a dressing room plus an en suite shower room to bedroom one, an additional shower room and bathroom. Bedroom one has laminate flooring. Bedroom two has a dressing room and en suite shower room, there are three more bedrooms plus a bathroom with a P-shaped bath.

A concrete/crazy paved driveway provides parking, a garage and a rear garden with a paved patio and lawn. Contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk





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BENT AVENUE

- Stunning Five Bedroom Residence EPC Rating F
- Currently Being Refurbished To A High Standard
- Large Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen And Study
- Five Bedrooms, Ensuite, Family Bathroom
- Viewing Essential

£325,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

NO CHAIN



SISKIN CLOSE

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks W/c
- Four Bedrooms Master With En-suite Shower Room plus Family Bathroom
- Property Benefits From Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Integral Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£224,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

Reduced



OAK ROAD

- Traditional Bay Fronted Link Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

£190,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



HALESOWEN

Reduced



FAIRFIELD ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating F
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms Separate W/c
- Benefiting From Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Garden To the Rear

£170,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



HALESOWEN

Reduced



LYDATE CLOSE

- Extended Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Through Lounge Separate Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms W/c
- Tarmac and Lawn To Front Garden To The Rear
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

£169,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

Reduced



WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two reception Rooms Breakfast Kitchen Ground Floor W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Property Benefits From Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

£160,000 offers over QUINTON 0121 4217766



BARTLEY GREEN

NEW



MOORS CROFT

- Modern Link Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen/Diner Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Master Having En-suite plus Family Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing and a Gas Central Heating System
- Side Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

£159,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

NO CHAIN



FARM ROAD

- Immaculate Traditional Semi-Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Through Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms And Bathroom W/c
- Block Paved Driveway Spacious Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

£150,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NO CHAIN



CHICHESTER DRIVE

- End Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Garage Driveway Rear Garden
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£149,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



ROWLEY REGIS

Reduced



TITFORD LANE

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Clockroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens Detached Garage

£130,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



WOODGATE



OLDBURY

Reduced



SUNNYBANK ROAD

- First Floor Maisonette EPC Rating F
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazing Night Storage Heating
- Well Maintained Communal Gardens
- Cul-de-sac Location Internal Inspection Recommended

£90,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



CRADLEY HEATH

Reduced



CLAREMONT COURT

- Detached Bungalow EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining/Kitchen Double Bedroom Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing and a Gas Central Heating System
- Off Road Parking and Courtyard Garden
- Deceptively Spacious Property Viewing Recommended

£90,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



Oldbury

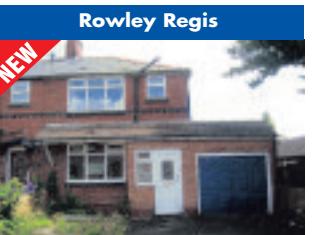
NEW



Seymour Road

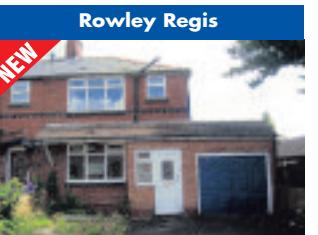
- Traditional Terraced Property, EPC rating D
- Excellent Condition Throughout
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Bedrooms And Upstairs Bathroom
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£90,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



Rowley Regis

NEW



Britannia Road

- Two Bedroom End Terrace, EPC rating E
- In Need Of Complete Refurbishment
- Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms And Bathroom
- Side Garage

£69,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766

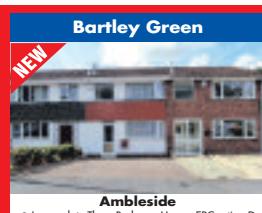
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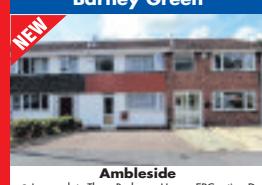
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Doing More...

Mendip Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £230,000

An extended modern three bedroom detached house comprising two reception rooms, downstairs shower room, kitchen and family bathroom.

INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC

Muirfield Crescent, Tividale



£200,000

Link detached three bedroom property briefly comprises kitchen, lounge, dining room, conservatory, utility area and two bathrooms.

Awaiting EPC

The Broadway, Dudley



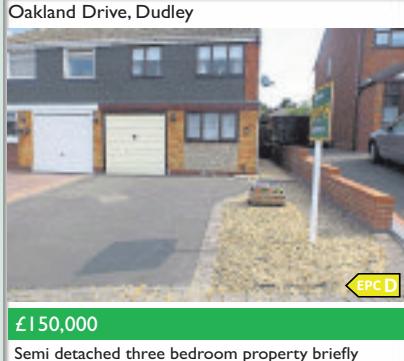
£190,000

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs WC, family bathroom and en-suite.

Help to Buy AVAILABLE

EPC D

Oakland Drive, Dudley



£150,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprises extended lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

EPC D

St. Andrews Street, Dudley



£140,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprises lounge, kitchen, dining room, utility, downstairs WC, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

Help to Buy AVAILABLE

Awaiting EPC

Bramble Green, Dudley



£120,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

EPC D

Field Road, Dudley



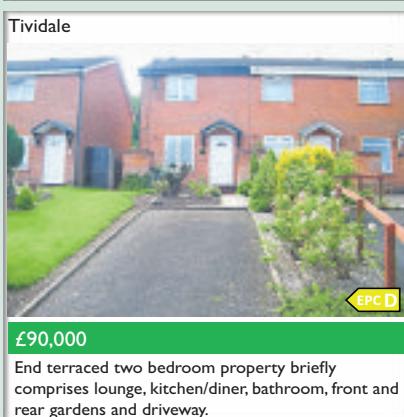
£90,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprises lounge, kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom, downstairs WC, front and rear gardens.

Help to Buy AVAILABLE

EPC D

Tividale



£90,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprises lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

EPC D

Bluebell Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £180,000

This four bedroom modern detached property comprises lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, WC, utility and en-suite to master bedroom.

INSTRUCTION

Awaiting EPC

Apperley Way, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

Detached house comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and bathroom, garage and gardens. Halesowen.

Help to Buy AVAILABLE

EPC D

Manson Drive, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £150,000

This modern three storey property with lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, two en-suites, utility, garage, drive, front and rear gardens.

Help to Buy AVAILABLE

EPC C

Trejon Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £140,000

This traditional semi detached house is situated in a well established residential area comprises kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, shower room and rear

EPC E

Meres Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £125,000

This traditional semi detached house comprises lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens.

Help to Buy AVAILABLE

EPC C

Codsall Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £110,000

A four bedroom semi detached house with sitting tenants comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom and rear garden.

NEW

EPC E

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Royal Oak Road, Halesowen



→ EPC E



£360,000

This traditional three bedroom detached house situated in a desirable location comprises kitchen/breakfast room, utility and bathroom.

Christopher Road, Halesowen



→ EPC D



£280,000

This extended four bedroom semi detached house situated in a desirable area comprises kitchen, utility and en-suite to master bedroom.

Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis



→ EPC D



£275,000

Traditional four bedroom detached house which has undergone considerable improvements. The accommodation is over three floors.

Mendip Road, Halesowen



→ Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £230,000

An extended modern three bedroom detached house comprising two reception rooms, downstairs shower room, kitchen and family bathroom.

Manson Drive, Cradley Heath



→ EPC C

Offers Over £150,000

This modern three storey property with lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, two en-suites, utility, garage, drive, front and rear gardens.

Glendale Close, Halesowen



→ EPC F

£150,000

This semi detached house comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, loft room, driveway, garage and front and rear gardens.

Trejon Road, Cradley Heath



→ EPC E

Offers Over £140,000

This traditional semi detached house is situated in a well established residential area comprises kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, shower room and rear garden.

Meres Road, Halesowen



→ EPC C

Offers Over £125,000

This traditional semi detached house comprises lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens.

Knowle Road, Rowley Regis



→ EPC C

£120,000

This three bedroom semi detached house is situated in an established residential area. Comprises bathroom, separate WC, kitchen/diner and driveway.

Upper Ashley Street, Halesowen



→ EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Traditional three bedroom terraced house comprises lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

Codsall Road, Cradley Heath



→ EPC E

Offers Over £110,000

A four bedroom semi detached house with sitting tenants comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom and rear garden.

Stourbridge Road, Halesowen



→ EPC D

Offers Over £100,000

This traditional mid terraced two bedroom house is situated in the heart of Halesowen. Comprises kitchen/diner, shower room, rear garden and parking.

Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath



→ EPC E

£95,000

A traditional three bedroom end terraced house situated in a convenient location. Comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, WC and bathroom.

Big year for Suzuki 4x4s

By John Griffiths

Most of us know someone who has celebrated their silver, or even golden wedding: after all, 25 years or even 50 is something of a big deal these days.

But 44 years? Well that only makes sense if you're a maker of 4x4 cars, and it's 44 years since you made the first one. Like Suzuki, for example.

And it's an auspicious year for the relatively small Japanese company which is celebrating sales up by 17 per cent this year, putting it in the top 20 of the British car market for the first time ever.

Its first 4x4 was the LJ10 (never officially sold here) but it was in 1988 with the arrival of the first Vitara that Suzuki's reputation for value for money all-wheel drive cars was really established.

The compact 4x4 was cheap and cheerful by SUV standards, but still highly competent, nearly three decades and many upgrades later, it remains popular with those who want all-weather ability without the size and expense of one of the lorry-like 4x4s.

The bad news is that the Vitara's story ends next year, but it will be replaced by a Nissan Juke-sized model currently codenamed the IV-4.

At around the same time, Suzuki's baby, the Alto, and its slightly bigger sibling the Splash, are also being replaced by the all-new Celerio.

Few details of the IV-4 have yet been released: for instance which all-wheel drive system it will use as Suzuki, uniquely, has several. This, says the company, is

because it designs the system to suit the car and the sort of tasks it is expected to perform.

One version of the Swift hatchback, for example, uses a viscous coupling which you don't even need to think about. It acts automatically, feeding power to the rear wheels virtually instantly if the front wheels start to slip.

It weighs just 65kg and is ideally suited to a 1.2-litre car as it performs its role of keeping you safer on slippery roads (or the odd foray onto field or rough track) without sapping much of the 94PS of power. That means little sacrifice in terms of fuel consumption or performance.

At prices from £14,159, it only has one real competitor, a version of Fiat's Panda, and you can't get the all-weather advantages of all wheel drive for as little money, or as cheap to run.

Serious

Its average fuel consumption is 51.3g/km, with CO2 emissions of 126g/km (10g/km higher than the two-wheel drive Swift) and a low insurance rating of group 11E. The 0 to 62mph sprint takes 13.4 seconds.

The Swift 4x4 sits 25mm higher on its suspension than its standard stablemate with metal deflector plates front and rear, recognising that some people will buy this car because they do actually need to use it on rough tracks.

If you're really serious about playing it rough, Suzuki's workhorse (or is that work pony?) is the Jimny, which uses much more traditional four-wheel drive systems but with an economical 1.3-litre engine.

Apart from beefy suspension and switchable two/four-wheel drive the Jimny's go anywhere ability is down to its low-range



'One version of the Swift hatchback, for example, uses a viscous coupling which you don't even need to think about.'

gearbox – something few rivals short of the much bigger, much more expensive SUVs can boast.

At £11,995 it's even a viable alternative to a big quadbike for farmers and other country dwellers and much cheaper to run than a 4WD SUV or pickup – and you still get home comforts such as air conditioning, a CD player, electric windows and airbags.

Suzuki's latest all wheel drive cars are the top versions of the SX4 S-Cross, with both 1.6 petrol and diesel options. It has

a new 'ALLGRIP' system with four modes: auto, snow, sport and lock. At prices from £21,459 to £23,549, the S-Cross is a well-equipped and roomy competitor to some of the chunky-looking SUVs which don't have its all-surface abilities.

Suzuki isn't by any means a huge player in the global car industry, and has always prides itself on the packaging of small cars. It is also the one company which offers such a wide range of cars with the reassurance of four-wheel drive in affordable packages.



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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Swift range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 41.5-46.3 (6.8-6.1), Extra Urban 57.6-64.2 (4.9-4.4), Combined 50.4-56.5 (5.6-5.0), CO₂ emissions 128-116 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *Model shown: Swift S24 available from £12,199. *VAT free offer on Swift range: Swift 1.2 S24 3dr available from £8,999, including a customer option of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 S24 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 which is equivalent to the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,799 (S22 3dr) and £16,439 (S24 5dr 4x4). VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Swift specifications and prices refer to the 2014 facelift model.



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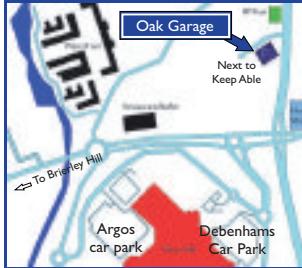
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Comfort and technology figures high with new 500

The new Fiat 500 has gone on sale in the UK with important new style, comfort and technological enhancements.

A key new feature is the segment-first seven-inch TFT digital instrument display, developed in collaboration with Magneti Marelli, which seamlessly combines cutting-edge technology without disrupting the trademark aesthetics of the cabin.

Standard on 500S and Cult models (and optional on Lounge versions), the layout and execution of the speedometer, rev counter and trip computer will be familiar to anyone who has driven the current FIAT 500, but the centre of the display – which contains a digital image of the car – can be configured to show various trip computer readouts.

The new TFT instrument cluster also allows for a more prominent gear shift Indicator; highly visible warning

messages and more detailed media player, telephone and navigation information readouts, including junction graphics and real-time traffic updates when equipped with a portable TomTom 2 Live satellite navigation system.

As a final touch, the TFT screen re-configures when the Sport button is activated on models equipped with 105hp 0.9 TwinAir Turbo engine.

The 2014 Fiat 500 is available to test drive.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 16v (115PS) VVT Start/Stop FWD: Urban: 33.6 (8.4), Extra-urban: 52.3 (5.4), Combined: 43.5 (6.5). CO₂ emissions 153g/km.‡

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1

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what's on

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3

Home & Services

carpets & furnishings

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FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.25, 1996, very good runner, MoT December, needs tidying, 1996, £350.00 o.n.o. 7599 923523

FORD FOCUS Ghia, 1.4, tax/MoT, 97,000 miles, silver, excellent condition, £1,100. o.n.o. 01902 853388.

FORD FOCUS LX, alloy, 1.6, 2015, Tax End Nov, 11,500 miles, £695. o.n.o. 07946 307086.

8
Motoring

cars under £1500

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FORD KA 1300. Silver, colour coded, 73k, clean car. 2002 MoT March, tax September. £695 o.n.o. 01902 408585 or 07593 552404.

FORD MONDEO 1.8 diesel, W reg, long MoT and tax. £350. 01902 678937.

FORD PUMA, black, 02 plate, MoT end June 2014, 99,500 miles, fsh, excellent condition. £550 o.n.o. 07813 117378.

GOLF GTI T51 reg, 12 months MoT, immaculate condition, black, £1,450. 01902 084345.

MAZDA XODUS 206, 1.9 V6, 1998, tax and MoT. 12 reg, silver, lady owner, 25k miles. £495. 01902 400208 or 07742 000459.

PEUGEOT 206 1.2 X reg, silver, lady owner, 25k miles. 4dr, EW, EM, PAS, good condition. £695. 01902 5327153 or 07729 932157.

PEUGEOT 206 Year 2000, 1.4 MoT Feb 2015. Used daily. £425. 000. 07599 923523.

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, HDI, 2004, 73k, 5dr, silver, MoT, tax, FSH, 2 owners, good condition. £1,450. 07838 889111.

PEUGEOT 307 Clio 1998, 1.6 Auto, 5dr, only 25,500 miles, 1 lady owner from new, tax, MoT, March, sun roof, £650. 07945 307086.

RENAULT SCENIC Expression, 2005, 1.6cc, 16v, FSH, lady owner from new, fully loaded, MoT, bargain £1,150. 07445 709081.

ROVER 2000 2dr, 1.8i, 1999, Turbo Diesel, 200k, 5dr, 9 months MoT, 7 months Tax, £950. 000. 07791 531018, Stourbridge.

ROVER 75 V6 2.5. Petrol, 2005, 62,000 miles, sky blue, immaculate, black leather trim, multi CD, TV, a/c, etc, all requirements. £1,200. Telephone 07539 950592.

SKODA FABIA Classic Estate green, 65,000 miles, Y reg, MoT Sept 14, tax April 15, £1,500. 07462 904941.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 3 door, 2005, 5dr, silver, FSH, E/W, CD, 16" alloys, £900. 000. 07747 399592, Brierley Hill.

VAUXHALL CORSA BREEZE 1999, 79,000 miles, silver, 1.0, 3 months MoT, 4 months tax, tidy little car, £450. 07792 044378.

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cars over £1500

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MERCEDES CLS 350 GRAND EDITION 2010, 3 Litre Turbo Diesel. Silver With Black Leather. 68,000 Miles. Auto, Climate Control, Sat Nav And All Usual Refinements. Taxed and MoT. £14,450. 000. Telephone 01630 639523 or 07792 879456.

PRESTIGE

PEUGEOT 307 2005, 76,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, pas, tax, CD, £1,600. 000. 07528 558277.

PEUGEOT 308 SE 1.6

Black, petrol, 2009, fsh, 65,000 miles, climate control, EW, EM, cruise control panoramic roof, 10 months MoT, 4 months tax, two new front tyres, recently serviced, one previous owner, good condition.

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SUBARU FORESTER 2.5XT Facelift, blue, 4x4, fsh, cruise control, 17" alloys, £1,000. 000. 0395 090 670381.

TOYOTA MR2 Sports, 2002, tax Oct, new MoT, silver, red interior, alloys used daily with hood down, £1,695. 01384 873411 or 07711 688220.

VAUXHALL CORSA Energy 1.3CDTi, Ecoflex, 2010, 29k miles, metallic silver, 5-dr, tax, MoT, AC, EW, alloys, £5,800. 01902 950173.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 TDI (105) S 5 door, 10 reg, 74,000 miles, metallic grey, 1sh, a/c, alloys, electric windows, MoT, tax (only £30 pa). Excellent condition.

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VW GOLF 1.2 Manual, 2002, 3dr, 66,000 miles, 1sh, tax, MoT, 15, very good, condition, reliable, £1,775. 000. 07807 494097.

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SUZUKI GSX 750F 1991, 36k miles, taxed, MoT, top box, Spada XXL jacket included, £1200. Would prefer swap for Naked upright bike. 07754 121452.

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SMART CAR convertible, limited edition Ladybird, 77k, reconditioned engine, full MoT, 3 months tax, £1,700. 000. 07986 221279.

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VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 TDI (105) S 5 door, 10 reg, 74,000 miles, metallic grey, 1sh, a/c, alloys, electric windows, MoT, tax (only £30 pa). Excellent condition.

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VW GOLF 1.2 Manual, 2002, 3dr, 66,000 miles, 1sh, tax, MoT, 15, very good, condition, reliable, £1,775. 000. 07807 494097.

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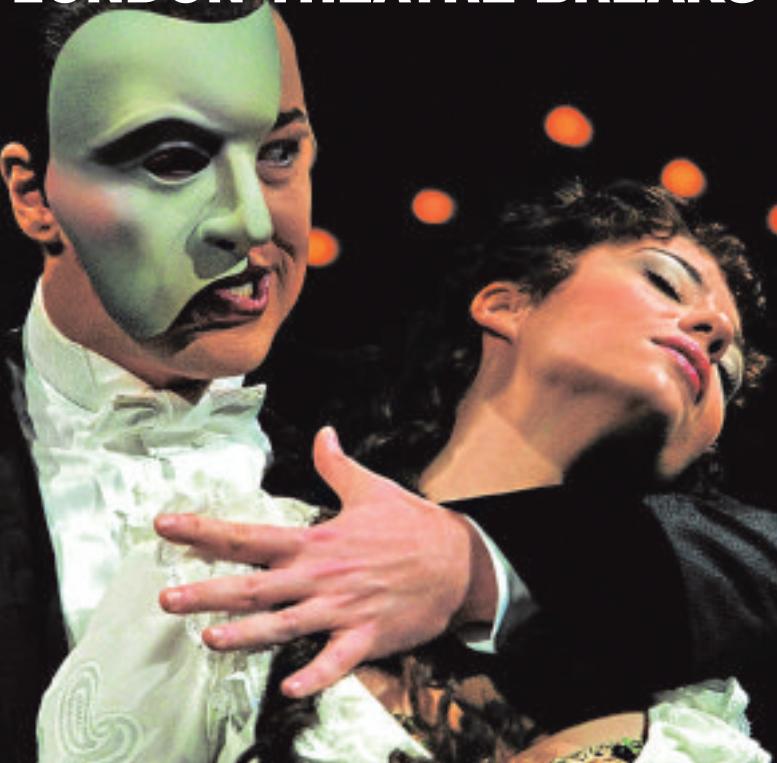
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JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA, Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully It, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me, Tel No: 0905 500 3955 Box No: 412599

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387

CHRISTINA, curly beauty, 27yrs, own home, very adventurous seems no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127

JAN slim, curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancys with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA, Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet male any age/area for no strings fun. Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517

Gwendoline honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293

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EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411127

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, elf, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411096

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, easy going male, N/S, GSOH, seeks genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410808

COUNTRY loving businessman, honest, medium build, N/S, GSOH, seeks professional, genuine, caring, honest, N/S female for loving relationship, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412445

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083

TALL 5ft 6ins, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412727

MALE 40's, discreet, seeks black male, under 30 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412415

YOUNG male, 25, educated, likes arts, dogs, travel, classic cars, comedy, seeks similar older male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412463

OLDER guy likes meals out, holidays, seeking younger for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411713

Women seeking Women

SARAH shy, likes animals, football, cycling, walks, gardening, looking for female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411411

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MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215

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EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55, with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

ATTRACTIVE 49yrs old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wiring, dining, being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

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TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823

JOHN 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413107

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411416

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414145

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087

TULL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505

DEBBIE 50, 5ft 9ins, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, seeking male for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083

ROSE 50, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, seeking male for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412081

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ROSE 50, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, seeking male for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412082

George end up victors in derby

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
The George 219 West Brom FSC 186

The first team entered West Brom FSC in a local derby and came out on top in a competitive match by 37 shots.

West Brom led by nine shots after the 1st four, Elliot McGuinness the only winner for The George. Wins in the middle four by Shane Day (21-3), Mick McGuinness (21-16) and Paul Hemming (21-18) put The George into a 13-shot lead.

A strong back four saw The George home with Steve Darling (21-8), Ivan Smout (21-9) and Phil Clinton (21-18) all winning.

South Staffs Premier Division Dudley Dell 237 The George 215

The second team put up a good fight at Dudley Dell before eventually going down to a 22 shot defeat. Paul Greene (21-11), Stewart Meddings (21-18) & Peter Hayne (21-19) winning for The George.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2 The George 239 The Maggies 175

The third team recorded a comfortable 64-shot home win.

King will ride out for his nation

BIRMINGHAM skipper Danny King has been named in Great Britain's starting line-up for their Monster Energy FM Speedway World Cup meeting this month.

The British side will face Australia, USA and Italy at King's Lynn on Saturday, July 26 – and King line-up alongside World Champion Tai Woffinden, former Brummies man Chris Harris and Simon Stead.

Great Britain boss Alun Rossiter said: "There's too much doom and gloom surrounding speedway and the British team in general, we've got the world champion in our team and in Harris, Stead and King they will represent their country with pride."

Starke warning of tough meeting

CRADLEY skipper Paul Starke says the home meeting with Coventry next Tuesday will be the toughest of the season at Monday, writes Nigel Pearson.

The Heathens have been in rampant form in 2014, claiming several big wins as they aim to defend their National League title.

But they were beaten by Coventry at Brandon in April and are looking for some revenge in what promises to be a great night of racing.

Starke knows his side are in for a difficult night as arguably the two strongest sides in

the third tier do battle. But with the Heathens high on confidence, he is backing his side to add three more points to their National League tally.

Starke said: "Our season starts now really – we've got some tough meetings coming up and we need to show what we are made of."

"The meeting against Coventry is probably the biggest meeting of the season so far for us, and we are desperate to perform

well. We know we are capable of getting all three points, and that is obviously what we are aiming for. We were really disappointed to lose at Coventry earlier in the year, but we are at home this time around and everyone has hit top form."

"We've really built up some momentum since then and everyone has been banging in big points regularly, so if they can do the same this week we should get the right result."

"Everyone is riding regularly and improving all the time, so I think we are probably a better team than we were in April."

"Coventry are a strong side with some good riders at this level so we can't afford to take anything for granted."

"But at the same time I'm confident we can come away with the win."

The following Tuesday, Heathens host their prestigious FAST Golden Hammer individual event with a bumper crowd expected.

And on Sunday, July 27, club legend Billy Hamill returns to the arena for a special evening with supporters at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill. Tickets are still available, at £10, from the club shop or website.

New man Poco misses opener

ALBION signing Sebastien Pocognoli missed his new club's pre-season opener at the weekend.

The 26-year-old Belgian international defender Pocognoli, who has joined from Hannover 96 for an undisclosed fee, became the Baggies' fourth summer signing after agreeing a three-year deal, plus a year's option in the club's favour.

Pocognoli, who has 12 Belgium caps, missed out on a World Cup place because of an end-of-season injury and was still sorting out his personal affairs on Saturday when Albion beat Bury 2-0 in a behind-closed-doors friendly.

Head coach Alan Irvine gave first run-outs to new signings Joleon Lescott, Craig Gardner and Chris Baird against the League Two side and made 10 changes at half-time.

Graham Dorrans and Saido Berahino scored the goals, both in the second-half, while wantaway duo Craig Dawson and George Thorne also featured.

But Pocognoli's arrival continues the changing face of an Albion squad undergoing a reconstruct.

Irvine said: "Sebastian is an experienced left-back who has played at a high level for many years."

Schoolboy Mongan in the medals

BLACK Country boy Jerry Mongan took home a bronze medal from the AIBA European Schoolboys Championships in Hungary.

The 14-year-old battled valiantly against the World No 1 at 54kg, the Russian Emin Khataev, who snuck the verdict despite coming under fire in the second round.

Mongan, the fighting pride of Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, skippered the England side and defeated Ireland's Michael McDonagh with guile and pressure to set up the meeting.

The reigning ABA Schoolboys champion's star is rising at international level, with the new season on the horizon in the autumn.

Irvine is satisfied at squad's first outing

Shrewsbury 1 Albion 2

BAGGIES new head coach Alan Irvine was satisfied enough with his squad's first public workout.

The game went ahead without a cluster of key figures including Gareth McAuley and Joleon Lescott.

The two central defenders are being protected to prevent calf muscle strains becoming anything more serious, but it is the yawning gap in Albion's attacking make-up which remains the principle focus of the club's recruitment concerns.

In an ideal world, and with a long trip to California beckoning tomorrow, Irvine would not have wanted to play Stephane Sessegnon, Victor Anichebe and Saido Berahino for 78 minutes.

But his options are such at the moment that he doesn't really have much choice.

Having cleaned out their front line at the end of last season, the Baggies have still got major work to do to find the offensive players out wide and down the centre that can turn a strained squad into a strong one.

As an introductory offer from the 'two-for-the-price-of-one' players Albion have recruited so far, this was satisfactory enough.

Multi-position pair Craig Gardner and Chris Baird were utilised for the second half, Gardner making several out-circus downs his favoured right side which should have brought further goals.

But he is a familiar figure. There was keener interest in Sebastian Pocognoli, the Belgium international given his first 45 minutes in an Al-

bion shirt on only his second day at the club.

The 26-year-old international looks both an unfussy left-back and an effective one with a couple of quality crosses adding to a clear relish for a robust challenge.

Albion fans are now quite used to the realities of their budget and where that places the club in the Premier League food chain.

If the Baggies are scoring the type of goals they produced last night there will be few complaints. They were taken after 13 minutes and then Youssouf Mulumbu – benefitting from a sumptuous touch by Sessegnon.

But both goals were constructed by the kind of first-touch passing of which this team is so capable but which went strangely absent at times last season.

In between, Shrewsbury broke away to equalise on 30 minutes through Scott Vernon, but the newly-constructed League Two outfit had to work hard in the opening 45 minutes to re-ignite Albion to just two. It got a little fractured after that.

Welborn will get another crack at the title



Jason Welborn is getting another crack at the British title on the same bill as Tyson Fury

ROWLEY Regis' Jason Welborn has joined Walsall's Martin Gethin in getting a second crack at the British title on the Tyson Fury-Dereck Chisora show.

Big-hitter Welborn, thwarted in his effort by Frankie Gavin at welter-weight in January 2013, steps up to light middle to face champion Liam Smith.

The reigning Midlands title holder is stepping in for Navid Mansouri,

who has pulled out with a back injury, at the Manchester Arena on July 26.

Welborn said: "I feel for Mansouri, but that's boxing. I know all about Liam Smith, I have sparred him before and I'm confident. He's no Frankie Gavin."

"I knew when I faced Frankie that the odds were stacked in his favour. He's a quality boxer with slick movement. He's up there with the best in

the world. Liam Smith has had his opponents hand-picked and won the title that way. He drew with Terry Carruthers, who I stopped. He's not in Frankie's league. It's at a higher weight but, since I stepped up, I have felt comfortable and strong. I have worked my up to this and it's my time to bring that belt back to the Black Country."

Gethin will also get an immediate chance to reclaim the British lightweight title.



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Villa and Baggies both get TV boost

VILLA'S first home game of the season against Newcastle has been picked for television coverage, while four Albion's fixtures have also been moved to help the schedules.

Villa are on the box six times before the end of November.

They kick off at Villa Park on August 23, when they host the Magpies on BT Sport.

Villa's trip to Liverpool on September 13 will be shown on Sky Sports (5.30pm), along with the away game with QPR on October 27 (8pm).

The broadcaster will also show Paul Lambert's men in home games with Manchester City (October 4, 5.30pm), Tottenham (Sunday, November 2, 4pm) and Southampton (Monday November 22, 8pm).

Albion have to wait until September 28, when they host Burnley at the Hawthorns, for their first live Sky game.

But the cameras will be back on Monday, October 20 when they host Manchester United and on Sunday, November 9 when Newcastle are the visitors to their ground.

The Baggies are then on BT Sport later that month on November 29 when they entertain Arsenal.

Brummies are shut down

WITH deep regret the British Speedway Promoters' Association can confirm the closure of Birmingham Brummies with immediate effect.

Great efforts have been made by several people to ensure the team could continue racing until the end of the season but sadly this has not proved possible.

BSPA Chairman Alex Harkess said: "I'm gutted about this outcome, but sadly there is no alternative.

"When I met with the loyal group of Birmingham supporters last week I believed there was genuine hope, but sadly things have changed.

"As an association, we have done everything possible to try and ensure the continuation of speedway but with no promoter willing to take the club forward I'm afraid the club is now closed for business."

Dawson offer is derisory, say the Albion

A second Burnley offer for Craig Dawson has been dismissed as "derisory" by Albion as they continue to play hard ball in the transfer market.

The newly-promoted Premier League outfit want the Baggies England Under 21 defender and have been back in with an offer which crept marginally over the £1.5m mark.

But Burnley will have to add another million to that just to get Albion to the negotiating table as The Hawthorns club continues to rebuff all attempts to blow further holes in a squad still under-manned

Football

for the season ahead. That stance mirrors the club's reaction to Derby's efforts to take George Thorne on a permanent deal despite both the midfielder and Dawson lodging transfer requests this summer.

Thorne and Dawson featured in Tuesday night's first public pre-season friendly, a 2-1 victory at Shrewsbury, and are due to leave on Albion's American tour.

Head coach Alan Irvine again stressed afterwards that he wants both players to

First outing

Boss Irvine is content with pre-season opener

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Welborn again

Boxer will get second shot at British title

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Baggies look to seal deal

ALBION will make a fresh attempt to strike a deal with neighbours Aston Villa for Alan Hutton this week in a bid to fill another vacancy in the club's summer rebuild.

But Liverpool prospect Andre Wisdom has emerged as a rival target if the two Midlands rivals cannot agree terms over Scottish international Hutton.

He has been in virtual exile under Paul Lambert at Villa, and the Baggies are ready to pounce as the 29-year-old reaches the last year of a four-year deal worth £35,000 a week.

But it's a sale Lambert might have welcomed six months ago, owner Randy Lerner's decision to put the club up for sale has changed the climate at Villa.

With Lambert desperately short of transfer funds, the chance of the first-team door opening again for Hutton is a fresh element as is Villa's anxiety about selling a player to such a close rival.

The fate of the deal could also be complicated by the exit of Villa CEO Paul Faulkner recently which has left Villa without an experienced figure in transfer dealings.

Senderos 'will plug the gap'

PAUL Lambert has backed Philippe Senderos to plug the gaping gap in Villa's defence.

The claret and blues shipped 66 goals last season and boss Lambert believes Senderos will be a key addition to his backline.

The 29-year-old was part of the Switzerland World Cup squad.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, July 17

Junior footballers are champions of festival



The Dudley Juniors under-15s team which has come away as champions of ESF Festival of Football

Dudley Juniors FC took the glory at the 2014 ESF Festival Finale at the University of Warwick Football Centre.

An unbeaten three wins and one draw saw them crowned the under-15s Champions after another thrilling tournament.

Dudley Juniors FC qualified for the tournament after taking part in the Festival of Football at Butlins, Minehead earlier this year. The team

went to the university full of confidence and beat three teams along the way to become crowned champions.

Kristin Brookes, from Dudley Juniors FC said: "The whole team is thrilled with our victory, what a weekend it was at the University of Warwick.

"Events like this are a great opportunity for the kids to showcase their talent against some of the top teams in the country, but mainly to

enjoy themselves. The whole weekend ran seamlessly and hopefully we'll be back next year to defend our title."

Martyn Young, at ESF Events, added: "With thousands of talented participants involved, the 2014 ESF Festival of Football has been another highly successful series of events."

Teams wishing to enter for next year should visit www.footballfestivals.co.uk or call 01664 566360.

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